



Charles N. Kahn III
President and CEO

April 8, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
U.S. Senate Finance Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Finance Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

On behalf of the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH), the national representative for over 1,000 leading tax-paying hospitals and health systems throughout the United States, I would like to express our strong support for the nomination and confirmation of Ms. Andrea Palm to serve as the next Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

FAH members provide patients and communities with access to high-quality, affordable care in 45 states across both urban and rural America. Our members include teaching and non-teaching, acute, inpatient rehabilitation, behavioral health, and long-term care hospitals and provide a wide range of inpatient, ambulatory, post-acute, emergency, children's, and cancer services.

Ms. Palm has shown her ability to lead in times of crisis. As the former Secretary-Designee of the Department of Health Services (DHS) of Wisconsin, she confidently and assuredly navigated her state's pandemic response and vaccine deployment. Ms. Palm will bring the successes and best practices she enacted on the state level to HHS as the department continues its critical role in pandemic response and recovery. America and its hospitals will be well-served under Ms. Palm's battle-tested leadership as we continue to respond and care for the nation's most vulnerable during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Palm is a dedicated public servant who brings a unique depth of institutional knowledge to the role of Deputy Secretary at HHS. She will be well-equipped to execute President Biden and Secretary Becerra's robust policy priorities starting on day one. Her proven ability to successfully steer federal health policy will help advance our shared goals of achieving

universal access to health coverage, strengthening the *Affordable Care Act*, and expanding the use of telehealth, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

Ms. Palm brings to the job a wealth of health policy experience on both the federal and state level, and her skill set uniquely qualifies her to navigate the challenges that will undoubtedly come before the agency. We look forward to collaborating with Ms. Palm on our shared priorities of ensuring Americans have access to high quality, affordable, patient-centered health care.

The Federation of American Hospitals urges the Senate Finance Committee to approve Ms. Palm's nomination expeditiously, and we support her confirmation by the full U.S. Senate.

If you have any questions or wish to speak further, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 202-624-1534.

Sincerely,

