



QUALITY IS OUR IMAGE

acr.org

January 20, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murray and Burr,

The American College of Radiology (ACR), a national medical professional organization representing over 40,000 radiologists, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists, nuclear medicine physicians and medical physicists, strongly supports the nomination of Attorney General Xavier Becerra to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

As Attorney General of the state of California since 2017 and as a member of the House of Representatives for over 20 years, Attorney General Becerra has both the experience of running one of the largest government agencies in the country as well as the proven ability to navigate the challenges of the federal legislative and regulatory processes. These skills, along with his proven track record of bringing people together to solve big problems, will be critical as he addresses the nation's worst health care crisis in over a century.

While in Congress and a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, part of whose jurisdiction is healthcare, Attorney General Becerra worked with the ACR to enact complex legislation to improve patient care such as the inclusion of accreditation standards for those facilities providing advanced imaging, as well as the mandatory consultation of appropriate use criteria (AUC) prior to the ordering of medical imaging services. Both efforts improved imaging quality and safety and reduced cost to the Medicare system as well as to Medicare beneficiaries.

Most notably, while in Congress Attorney General Becerra played a prominent role in the drafting and enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), where he fought to expand Americans' access to healthcare. As the California Attorney General, Becerra has led the fight to protect the PPACA from being overturned in order to preserve Americans' access to health insurance regardless of pre-existing medical conditions, as well as continuing access to lifesaving screening services, such as mammography, at no cost to the patient.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, and countless more, the American College of Radiology urges the Committee, as well as the full Senate, to vote in favor of Attorney General Becerra's nomination for Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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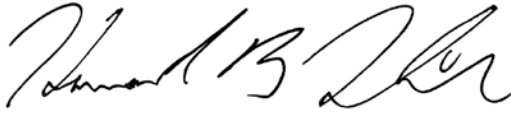
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The ACR looks forward to working with Mr. Becerra in his new role as HHS Secretary and continuing its work with the Committee to improve care and timely access to imaging services for its patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard B. Fleishon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Howard" being the most prominent.

Howard B. Fleishon, MD, MMM, FACR
Chair, Board of Chancellors

Cc: Members, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions