

April 9, 2021

Chairman Ron Wyden
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Mike Crapo
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, our clinician partners, including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers, and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to support the nomination and confirmation of Andrea Palm to serve as deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Ms. Palm has spent her entire career improving our health care system and ensuring Americans have access to health care. As the secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services from 2019 to 2021, Ms. Palm led the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The state of Wisconsin faced many challenges during the pandemic; however, under Ms. Palm's leadership, the state was able to meet the health care needs of the state's urban, suburban and rural communities. Today, Wisconsin has one of the highest rates of vaccination.

During the Obama Administration, Ms. Palm served as acting assistant secretary at HHS. Ms. Palm served as a policy advisor to the United States Domestic Policy Council at the White House. She returned to HHS to serve as an advisor to the assistant secretary for health and chief of staff to the HHS Secretary. During her eight-year tenure, she worked on a variety of Administration priorities, including the Affordable Care Act, as well as providing leadership for HHS' work to combat the opioid epidemic.

There are many critical priorities facing the nation and the health care field. Nothing is more critical than the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring that hospitals, health systems and our heroic front-line caregivers have the resources and support they need to care for patients and win the battle against the virus. We also need to make important progress on advancing the transformation of health care, ensuring access to coverage, making health care equitable to all people in America and enhancing the quality of care.



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The AHA is confident in Ms. Palm's ability to work in bipartisan manner, as she has done so well in the past. She also will solicit input and feedback from stakeholders to better understand issues and potential solutions. Ms. Palm understands the value of strong partnerships with states and local communities.

The AHA strongly supports Ms. Palm and encourages favorable consideration of her nomination. We look forward to working with her as the next deputy secretary of HHS to achieve our mutual mission of advancing the health of the patients and communities we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

/s/

Richard J. Pollack
President and CEO