



June 18, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Rachel Levine
Assistant Secretary for Health
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary and Madam Secretary:

On behalf of the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), and as the Chief Medical Officer, I fully endorse and support the HHS Secretary establishing a Secretary's Council on Primary Care. This Council would coordinate primary care policy, ensure adequate budgetary resources for such work, report to Congress and the public on progress, and hear guidance and recommendations from a Primary Care Advisory Committee that represents key primary care stakeholders.

NACHC is the national trade association serving and representing the interests of America's community, migrant, and homeless health centers. Our mission is to promote the provision of high quality, comprehensive health care that is accessible, coordinated, culturally and linguistically competent, and community directed for all underserved populations. Health centers are not-for-profit providers of health care to America's poor and medically underserved. For over 50 years, they have provided primary care to the nation's uninsured and underinsured. Health centers are the medical home for 30 million people at over 14,500 health center delivery sites – spanning urban and rural communities in all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the US Virgin Islands. Primary care services are delivered through the over 28,000 clinicians and over 285,000 health center staff.

This letter is written to support the 600 primary care leaders (representing over 250,000 clinicians) that signed a recent letter from The Larry A. Green Center. We are united in population health, health equity, and restoration of the foundation of US health care best affected through the immediate creation of an HHS Secretary's Council on Primary Care. This was recommended by a recent report of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, *Implementing High Quality Primary Care* (May 2021).

Sincerely,

Ron Yee, MD, MBA, FFAFP
Chief Medical Officer, NACHC