



February 25, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Washington, DC  
20515

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
Washington, DC  
20515

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), representing more than 136,700 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write in support of the nomination of Chiquita Brooks-LaSure to serve as the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Throughout her career, Ms. Brooks-LaSure has consistently worked to improve health care coverage and affordability for all Americans, while also developing expertise in Medicare, Medicaid, and the individual market. As a committee staffer for the U.S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee, Ms. Brooks-LaSure played a central role in writing and passing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA), both of which significantly reduced out-of-pocket costs across federal health programs and markedly improved patients' access to primary care services.

After her time on Capitol Hill, Ms. Brooks-LaSure became Deputy Director for Policy at the CMS Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, where she oversaw the implementation of the ACA. In each of these roles, she earned a reputation of a leader who will work to secure health care for all and advance health equity, both of which are also top [priorities](#) for the AAFP.

The AAFP has been a strong [supporter](#) of efforts to strengthen and build upon the progress made by the ACA. Most recently, we [urged](#) President Biden to take swift action to reverse harmful regulations that undermine the Medicaid safety net, the individual market, and anti-discrimination protections. We also [outlined](#) our recommendations for building a robust primary care workforce to meet our nation's health care needs now and in the years to come, and many of these policies will be operationalized by the CMS Administrator.

With her extensive experience working on Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA, we are confident that Ms. Brooks-LaSure is best leader to advance these priorities. We look forward to working with Ms. Brooks-LaSure to fortify these vital programs and ensure beneficiaries can receive the essential primary care services they need. If confirmed, she would be the first Black woman to serve as CMS Administrator – a welcome and overdue step in advancing diversity and inclusion among our nation's top health officials.

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Given the central role of CMS in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, including by operationalizing an ongoing special enrollment period and ensuring beneficiaries' access to the COVID-19 vaccine, the AAFP urges the Committee and the Senate to confirm Ms. Brooks-LaSure as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for the nomination of Ms. Brooks-LaSure for CMS Administrator. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Erica Cischke, Senior Manager for Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, at [ecischke@aafp.org](mailto:ecischke@aafp.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary L. LeRoy, MD, FAFPP". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "L".

Gary L. LeRoy, MD, FAFPP  
Board Chair, American Academy of Family Physicians