



April 14, 2021

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

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

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 Andrea Palm to serve as the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Throughout her career, Ms. Palm has consistently worked to improve access to affordable health care coverage and high-quality care for all Americans. As a senior staffer at the Department of Health and Human Services, she worked to implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and address the opioid epidemic. The AAFP was supportive of these efforts, as we have also [advocated](#) to strengthen and build upon progress made by the ACA to ensure that all patients can access primary care services. We look forward to working with Ms. Palm to [reduce barriers](#) to substance use disorder treatments, which continue to impede our collective efforts to end the opioid epidemic.

Most recently, Ms. Palm led Wisconsin's COVID-19 response and oversaw the state's Medicaid program as health secretary-designate. She swiftly took action to improve patients' access to telehealth services when the pandemic began and has spearheaded one of the most successful vaccine distribution operations in the nation. The AAFP shares in Ms. Palm's commitments to improving access to these vital services. We have been a staunch supporter of ensuring [easy](#) and [equitable](#) access to COVID-19 vaccines, as well as [expanding](#) coverage and payment for telehealth services. Her experience responding to the pandemic would be an asset to HHS.

Ms. Palm has earned the reputation as a strong leader and public official who is committed to improving public health and health care access. We look forward to working with her to end the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure beneficiaries can receive the essential primary care services they need. We urge you to swiftly confirm her.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for the nomination of Ms. Palm for Deputy Secretary of HHS. If you have additional questions, please contact Erica Cischke, Senior Manager of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, at ecischke@aafp.org.

STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

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Sincerely,

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

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