



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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April 12, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

On behalf of the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges), I write to express our support for the nomination of Andrea Palm for the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Ms. Palm's experience in health policy and her leadership role in Wisconsin's response to the COVID-19 pandemic make her an ideal candidate to serve in this role. She is well-qualified to help lead HHS's efforts to enhance the health and well-being of everyone through the department's public health and research missions, especially as the department continues to respond to the current pandemic and address other important health care needs.

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 155 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; more than 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their more than 179,000 full-time faculty members, 92,000 medical students, 140,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

Ms. Palm's extensive background in health policy will make her an important asset as HHS continues to address the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-designee, she led one of the largest state agencies and was responsible for a variety of issues, including Medicaid and behavioral health programs. Additionally, Ms. Palm managed the state's response efforts to the COVID-19 pandemic. This experience – combined with her previous background at HHS where she worked on several key priorities including the Affordable Care Act and combatting the opioid epidemic – will help Ms. Palm lead the department's health care and medical research priorities moving forward.

We support this nomination and urge the Senate to move quickly to advance and confirm Ms. Palm. We look forward to working with her to address the important issues facing the nation, including our mutual goal of improving the health and well-being of people everywhere.

Please feel free to contact me or AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer Karen Fisher, JD (kfisher@aamc.org) if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Sincerely,

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

David J. Skorton, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Association of American Medical Colleges

cc: Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell