



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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May 11, 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 strong support for the nomination of Melanie Egorin, PhD to be the Assistant Secretary for Legislation (ASL) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dr. Egorin's extensive health policy and legislative experience makes her exceptionally well-qualified to serve in this role. Throughout her distinguished career, she has worked to increase patient access to health care and improve the health of all, and the AAMC believes her experience and unique skillset will help her serve as the primary liaison between HHS and Congress.

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.

The Office of the ASL plays a critical role in advancing health policy and advising Congress on the potential impact of legislative proposals. Dr. Egorin's extensive experience at the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) will allow her to step into this role both immediately and effectively. Over the course of her distinguished career, she has been well known for not only being a health policy expert, but also for her ability to work collaboratively – two qualities that are essential for success as the ASL.

As the Biden Administration and Congress continue the federal response to, and recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic, the ASL will play a critical role in helping to set the legislative agenda and guide the development of policies that will help meet these goals. Additionally, Dr. Egorin's experience will prove useful as policymakers consider efforts to improve public health and preparedness, increase health equity, support research, invest in education and physician training, and improve patient access to care. Dr. Egorin's firsthand experience with Congress, the GAO,

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and HHS makes her uniquely qualified for this role, and the AAMC urges her swift confirmation.

We enthusiastically support this nomination and look forward to engaging with Dr. Egorin as we work toward our common goals of expanding access to quality and affordable health care, increasing the physician workforce, advancing research, improving health equity, and enhancing the health of people everywhere. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like any additional information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Fisher, JD
Chief Public Policy Officer
Association of American Medical Colleges

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