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June 15, 2021

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chairman
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

I write today to request that you hold a hearing in the Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security with Secretary Xavier Becerra regarding the Biden Administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

Most authorizing committees hold budget hearings with their respective cabinet agencies so that the members of the authorizing committee can better understand the proposed budget request. Such a hearing is at the heart of our role in oversight of the agencies under our jurisdiction and helpful to the American people for whom we work to know what our government proposes to spend and do with their taxpayer funds.

Because current and recent Chairs of the HELP Committee, U.S. Senators Murray, Alexander, and Harkin, have also served on the Senate Appropriations Committee, holding a budget hearing for HELP's cabinet agencies has fallen out of practice. This is a huge disservice to the rest of the members of the HELP Committee.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, it would be appropriate for you to hold a hearing with Secretary Becerra and would be good for the integrity of our Committee.

I look forward to working with you to schedule this hearing in the near future and to your reply.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member