



April 15, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The National Organization for Rare Disorders, Inc. (NORD) writes to express our support for the nomination of Andrea Palm to serve as the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). NORD is a unique federation of more than 330 voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping the 25-30 million Americans living with a rare disease. NORD is committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research, and patient services. We believe that all patients should have access to quality, accessible, and affordable health coverage that is best suited to their medical needs.

Throughout her long career in public service, Ms. Palm has worked to advance policies that have improved access to affordable and comprehensive health care. The extensive health care expertise she has developed from years serving in Congress, at the White House and HHS, and leading a state agency, makes her uniquely well qualified for this role. We are confident that Ms. Palm's impressive policy background will enable her to effectively lead within HHS and support the implementation of policies that can help address the pressing health needs of the rare disease community.

Should Ms. Palm be confirmed, she will be tasked with addressing many of our nation's most urgent health-related challenges. As Secretary-Designee for the Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, Ms. Palm spearheaded Wisconsin's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, while working on a bipartisan basis to expand access to vital services through telehealth. Her front-line experience forging partnerships with local communities and working alongside scientific and public health leaders will be invaluable in the national recovery from this devastating crisis.

NORD looks forward to working alongside Ms. Palm as Deputy Secretary to ensure that health care is accessible, comprehensive, and affordable for patients with rare disorders. We urge this committee to take swift action to advance Andrea Palm's nomination before the full Senate so that the critical work of the Department may proceed without any delay.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Saltonstall
President and Chief Executive Officer

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