

# BLACK AIDS INSTITUTE

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
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The Honorable Patty Murray  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

## Statement of Support for President Biden's nomination of Xavier Becerra as Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS)

**February 23, 2021** – Black AIDS Institute, the only uniquely and unapologetically Black HIV *think-* and *do-* tank in America, supports the confirmation of California Attorney General Xavier Becerra as the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Attorney General Becerra's experience in Washington, having represented Los Angeles for 12 terms in Congress, and his subsequent work leading the defense of the Affordable Care Act before the U.S. Supreme Court as Attorney General of California clearly qualify him for this role in President Biden's Cabinet. We urge the Senate to confirm his nomination without delay.

Mr. Becerra's demonstrated commitment to reproductive justice and achieving health equity will be key to ending the HIV epidemic in the United States. We look forward to working with the HHS Secretary to ensure universal access to and robust utilization of health care that is high-quality, comprehensive, and affordable, as well as culturally- and gender-affirming ([We The People: A Black Strategy To End HIV](#)).

"Becerra will have the necessary task of leading the country out of the two deadliest pandemics in our lifetimes, COVID and HIV, both of which have disproportionately hurt Black communities. We are cautiously optimistic that he will, in accordance with President Biden's commitment to Black communities, approach health disparities comprehensively and through a racial justice lens," said BAI President and CEO Raniyah Copeland. "That means following the science, drawing upon experts and lessons learned from the HIV movement, and centering communities of color. Amidst multiple intertwined public health emergencies, we urge his swift confirmation so his team may begin to provide solutions that end discriminatory practices and systems that have fueled health inequity in the U.S."

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*Powered by two decades of work to end the Black HIV epidemic and led by people who reflect the issues we prioritize, BAI grounds its work in Black leaders and communities across the country. Recognizing that health justice is a racial and social justice issue, BAI is deeply committed to exposing the systems and roots of oppression that marginalize Black people and exacerbate our health burden. We are revolutionizing the HIV response by centering Black experiences and perspectives to ensure that Black people can live their fullest, healthiest lives with dignity, care, and respect.*