



March 22, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the bargaining unit employees of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) represented by the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU), I would like to congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary. I appreciated the positive relationship we had when you served in the House of Representatives and certainly believe that the President has made a wise choice in asking you to assume these new duties as HHS Secretary.

I know in those duties you will be ably assisted by the highly professional, dedicated, competent and skilled health workers, scientists, researchers, and other professional and support staff working at the Department. Further, I know you will find the employees whom I represent at the Department to be top rate and dedicated public servants. NTEU represents employees at the Food and Drug Administration, the Administration for Children and Families, Administration of Community Living, the Health Resources and Services Administration, Indian Health Service, National Center for Health Statistics, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, the Program Support Center as well as those who work directly for you in the Office of the Secretary.

Our partnership with management is of great importance to me and the employees NTEU represents. Unfortunately, the relationship between the Department and NTEU has been significantly damaged over the past few years, and even in this new administration, I have twice written the Acting Secretary asking him to take immediate steps to implement Executive Order 14003 (letters attached) and have yet to receive any response. After four years of harsh, anti-labor actions by HHS leadership, I am anxious and optimistic for a new start.

To begin working together, I would like to schedule an introductory meeting with you. I believe our collaboration — management and employees — can do great things for HHS and the American public. Eileen Tolson of my staff is available to help set up a time for us to meet. She can be reached via e-mail at Eileen.tolson@nteu.org. Again, congratulations on your confirmation and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony M. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Anthony M. Reardon
National President

Enclosures