

Transform

Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation



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Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation

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President-elect Joseph Biden
Vice President-elect Kamala Harris
PO Box 96663
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Dear President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris,

On behalf of our 3,200 business members across the country, congratulations again on your historic 2020 victory for the White House. Appropriately staffing the new White House and the federal government's top departments and agencies is a priority for your transition team as you both prepare for your administration to begin on January 20, 2021.

The last four years has marked a dramatic decline in the trust of government. Inexperience and conflicts of interest are hallmarks of the current administration's hiring practices. When highly-paid lobbyists are appointed to run parts of the federal government that regulated their previous employers, it breeds apathy in the American people and instills distrust in government information and decisions.

We believe strongly that the new Biden administration should avoid hiring corporate lobbyists and corporate executives who will see their roles as shaping regulation for their business clients as opposed to the American people. As a business organization, we believe that businesses can be a force for good in the world. But it is also clear that a select handful of companies have a monopoly on government access and influence.

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Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation is a nonpartisan organization that supports policies that would create a universal health care system, one that guarantees coverage to all residents regardless of their income, background, health condition, or employment status. The current for-profit system is bad for economic development, hampers wage growth, and discourages entrepreneurship.

In the interest of cooperation and bipartisanship, we offer the following recommendations for appointments to your new administration for top healthcare-related departments and agencies. We believe this group of dynamic reformers are capable, knowledgeable, and would help regain the trust of the American people while repairing the considerable damage to our economy and health care system.

Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Dr. Donald Berwick

There are few people who understand how health systems work like Dr. Berwick, who brings his background as a pediatrician, academic, and former government official to the job. The next HHS secretary has the challenging job of navigating both the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing collapse of employer health care. As the president emeritus and senior fellow at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and former administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Dr. Berwick is recognized as one of the world's leading experts on health care quality and improvement.

Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Dr. Mandy Cohen

Dr. Mandy Cohen has built a national reputation for her work as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) over the last three years. An internal medicine doctor by training, Dr. Cohen became a familiar face to residents of North Carolina as one of the top state officials responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. She is the right person to lead CMS and oversee the country's public health care programs during this crisis.

Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Vikki Wachino

Serving in this position during the Obama administration, Vikki Wachino helped achieve the lowest level of uninsured in the country's history by leading negotiations with governors seeking to expand Medicaid. Under her leadership, CMS launched landmark state delivery system reforms and revamped the ground rules of Medicaid managed care. She is also an extremely effective leader and manager who helped rebuild CMS after eight years of the Bush Administration, driving double-digit increases in employee morale scores.

Administrator of Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Dr. Rebekah Gee

More than 500,000 residents were enrolled in Medicaid under the tenure of Dr. Rebekah Gee as the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health. Her work in that state to extend insurance

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coverage to low-income and disenfranchised residents speaks volumes about her values and her success in lowering prescription drug prices and her work to reduce infant mortality speak to her skills. Dr. Gee would bring these skills and experiences to restore the mission of HRSA.

Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration

Dr. Josh Sharfstein

Reigning in the high cost of pharmaceutical drugs while not impacting access, quality, and safety will be a top priority for the FDA, especially in an era that will see several new COVID-19 vaccines reach the American people. Dr. **Joshua M. Sharfstein**, who previously served as the deputy commissioner of the FDA and is the current Vice Dean for Public Health Practice and Community Engagement at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, has the experience to run this vital agency during this difficult time.

The United States' health care and employment systems were not prepared for COVID-19. Ending the threat of the pandemic through common sense and science-informed public health measures and expanding public health programs for the newly uninsured should be priorities for your new administration.

The individuals recommended have the experience, background, and vision to help you truly transform our health care system into one that is more equitable, sustainable, and economically viable. We look forward to working with you, your transition team, and the new administration to finally make universal health care a reality in the United States.

Sincerely,

Richard Master

CEO, MCS Industries Inc.

Chairman, Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation

Wendell Potter

President, Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation

Daniel Barlow

Executive Director, Business Leaders for Health Care Transformation

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