



April 10, 2019

Genevieve M. Clavreul, RN, PhD
210 Hudson Avenue, #2408
Pasadena, California 91101

Dear Dr. Clavreul:

As the Executive Director of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), please accept my sincere gratitude for your efforts, past and ongoing, in the fight to end HIV infections in the United States. Secretary Azar has asked me to respond on his behalf and address your questions and concerns regarding PACHA membership that you outlined in a letter dated March 14, 2019.

PACHA has been critically important to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) since its establishment in 1995. Tasked with developing recommendations that will help improve the federal efforts to fight the HIV epidemic, the Department takes membership very seriously. Individuals are chosen after careful review and consideration.

As a reminder, HHS published a notice in the Federal Register announcing that the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH) was seeking nominations of qualified individuals to be considered for appointment. This announcement was published on December 1, 2017, World AIDS Day, and closed on January 2, 2018. It is my understanding that you spoke with Caroline Talev, M.P.A., PACHA's Committee Manager, in early January 2018 when you called to inquire about that status of your application. You communicated that you submitted your application on December 14, 2017. During this conversation, Ms. Talev realized that you had submitted your application to the incorrect person. Ms. Talev immediately asked you to resubmit your application to her via email since they were to be addressed to her or me, as indicated in the Federal Register announcement.

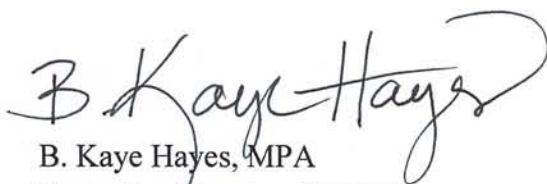
During the 2018 National Ryan White Conference on HIV Care and Treatment, Secretary Azar announced that Carl Schmid, M.B.A., Deputy Executive Director of The AIDS Institute, and Dr. John Wiesman, Secretary of Health at Washington State Department of Health, were invited to serve as Co-Chairs of the PACHA. Mr. Schmid and Dr. Wiesman have dedicated their careers to public health and improving the lives of people living with, or at risk of, HIV. Mr. Schmid has been with The AIDS Institute, a national nonpartisan, public policy, advocacy research, and education organization that advocates for people with HIV and viral hepatitis, since February 2004. He leads the Institute's federal policy work before the executive agencies and the Congress. Dr. Wiesman has more than 22 years of

local public health experience and focuses on whole systems approaches to improving health. He has transformed health departments from providing individual clinical services to implementing policy, system, and environmental changes promoting prevention that make healthy choices easier and less expensive. The dedication Mr. Schmid and Dr. Wiesman have for the American people is monumental and I am inspired by their vision for leading the PACHA, especially with President Trump's new initiative, *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America*.

Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH), swore-in Mr. Schmid and Dr. Wiesman on January 28, 2019, and it has truly been an honor to support them in their role as PACHA Co-Chairs. On March 14, 2019 (day one of PACHA's 63rd full council meeting), the ASH conducted the oath-of-office to nine additional individuals. The PACHA currently has eleven members, and we are incredibly proud of the diverse council and we look forward to learning from them. The biographical sketches of these PACHA members can be found here: <https://www.hiv.gov/federal-response/pacha/members-staff>.

With the announcement of the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America*, the PACHA has a unique opportunity to contribute to the federal effort by making recommendations regarding progress in achieving the goals of the initiative. During the 63rd full council meeting, PACHA members unanimously voted in favor of a resolution commending the Administration for developing this bold initiative. The PACHA stated that they will help ensure that proper accountability and metrics are in place so that the goals of ending new HIV infections are met, and that all key stakeholders, including people living with HIV, are included in the Plan's implementation. The resolution can be found here: <https://files.hiv.gov/s3fs-public/PACHA-End-HIV-Elimination-Resolution-passed.pdf>

We truly have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to impact millions of lives. But this bold initiative, the *Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America*, cannot be achieved without working together. Again, thank you for your interest in the PACHA, and the work that you do every day. Together, we have a chance to end the HIV epidemic in America for every generation to come.



B. Kaye Hayes, MPA
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