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March 14, 2019

The Honorable Alex Azar II
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

As someone who's been involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS since the beginning (as a RN I cared for one of the first patient's with what was then known as G.R.I.D.S.) you can imagine I keep an eye on all things related to HIV/AIDS. It's for this reason, I did my utmost to keep current with PACHA as it progressed towards reconstitution. Since my last letter to you in June 2018 I've contacted and spoken with Ms. Hayes numerous times, most recently this past Monday, March 11th. During our brief conversation Ms. Hayes once again reaffirmed that at this time there were only two confirmed PACHA members the co-chairs, and that additional information was available on line. This sum total of this information was the March 14-15 PACHA agenda, but no listing on members other than the two co-chairs.

Since the "call" went out for individuals to submit their application for consideration there has been a continuous stream of what I can only describe as misinformation. A sample of this would be first being informed that the application period had closed, when it hadn't, then the applications had been lost could "you" please resubmit, to even though a date for the new PACHA meeting had been set background checks on nominees hadn't been completed, to most recently (Mon., March 11th) there are only two people appointed and no others have been announced. And, let's not forget not a single person that I know, including myself, received a letter thanking us for our application and letting us know that we hadn't been selected. I think with the comedy of errors that this PACHA process has been such that a letter would have been the professional thing to do – and it would've made the Trump administration present a positive image to the public at large, and the HIV/AIDS community in particular.

Which is what when I attended this morning's meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV/AIDS I wasn't surprised when one of the commissioner slammed and ridiculed the Trump Administration for the lack of information on PACHA and implying that President didn't care for the HIV/AIDS community and that President Trump was a joke. Personally, I'm sick and tired of these attacks and when administration staffers, such as Ms. Hayes, act in the manner that they do they only provide unnecessary fuel for Trump-detractors.

I would like to ask why there are no RNs appointed to PACHA, and while MDs are part of the care team, it's the frontline nurse that provides the majority of care for those living with HIV/AIDS and I find it very disheartening that their voice is missing from this body. Additionally, I would like to request an investigation into the entire process and why there appeared to be a conscious effort to obscure and obfuscate the selection process from beginning to end.

Sincerely,
Geneviève M. Clavreul, RN, PhD