

January 29, 2018

The Honorable Alex M. Azar  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

On behalf of the American Society of Nephrology (ASN), congratulations on your confirmation by the US Senate to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). ASN's members, leadership, and staff welcome the opportunity to work with you and all of the talented individuals at HHS to collaborate to prevent, treat, and cure kidney diseases.

Leading the fight against kidney diseases, ASN represents more than 18,000 physicians, scientists, and healthcare professionals. The society is committed to educating health professionals, advancing research and innovation, communicating new knowledge, and advocating for the highest quality care for patients to improve the lives of the 40,000,000 Americans with kidney diseases, including the 680,000 Americans with kidney failure.

Foremost among the society's priorities is fostering more innovation in kidney care, increasing the availability of novel therapeutics to improve the lives of people with kidney diseases and bring better value to the healthcare system. Medicare annually spends \$34 billion treating kidney failure, an incurable life-threatening condition, treated with dialysis therapy invented 50 years ago. Together, ASN and HHS can, and must, do better.

Building on your leadership and experience, ASN looks forward to collaborating to improve the lives of people with kidney diseases and reduce the financial burden these diseases are placing on patients, families, and the healthcare system.

Again, congratulations on your nomination and confirmation to serve as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. ASN's members, leadership, and staff eagerly look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Mark D. Okusa, MD, FASN  
President