

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

The American Academy of Dermatology Association (Academy), which represents more than 13,500 dermatologists nationwide, wishes to express its support for the nomination of Representative Tom Price, MD, for the position of U.S. Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Dr. Price, in his active role in health care policy in Congress as well as his years of service at the state level of government, has demonstrated a proven understanding of the intricate complexities of our nation's health care system. Additionally, as someone who has worked as a practicing physician, Dr. Price would bring to the position of Secretary a personal understanding of how the policies enacted in Washington impact the practice of medicine and delivery of care to patients across the country.

Specifically, Dr. Price understands the importance of the physician-patient relationship and recognizes the critical role that physicians play in the delivery of care to their patients. He has often supported dermatology's position on integrated electronic health care records and the challenges of meaningful use. Dr. Price has also been a leading voice to reduce burdensome regulations which have limited the time physicians can devote to caring for and treating patients.

During his time in Congress, Dr. Price worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact a new Medicare physician payment system that streamlines multiple reporting requirements for physician practices within Medicare. More recently, with the roll out of the new Medicare Quality Payment Program (QPP), Dr. Price sought input regarding proposed regulations and their potential impact on physicians and patients, working with stakeholders and advocating with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to help provide flexibility for physician practices both small and large.

The Academy appreciates your consideration of Dr. Price's nomination as Secretary of Health and Human Services, and supports his nomination as Secretary. At this important time in health care for our nation, Dr. Price's experience as a physician and his in-depth understanding of health care policy will provide HHS and our nation the direction needed to guide our health care system as it addresses the needs of a growing and diversifying patient population. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Shawn Friesen, the Academy's Director,



American Academy of Dermatology Association
Excellence in Dermatology™

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Abel Torres M.D., FAAD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Abel Torres, MD, JD, FAAD
President, American Academy of Dermatology Association