Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra Secretary-designate U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary-designate Becerra:

We write to bring to your attention the urgent need for a national demographic breakdown of administered COVID-19 vaccines. As such, we urge you to collect, disseminate, and make publicly available demographic breakdown of already administered and future administration of COVID-19 vaccines. Absence of this data breakdown could indirectly increase existing health disparities, and thereby undermine the entire vaccination process and jeopardize our national health and recovery from this pandemic.

As you know, the impact of COVID-19 on seniors and communities of color, in particular Asian American, Black, Latinx, and tribal communities, is extremely heartbreaking. The pandemic has only exacerbated already existing vulnerabilities and inequalities, particularly in access to health care. Furthermore, inadequate access to the COVID-19 vaccine increases health disparities among vulnerable populations across the United States.

As the federal government works through the logistical challenge of vaccinating hundreds of millions of people across the United States, it is imperative that there is equity – as well as publicly available data – on the administration process. A demographic breakdown of COVID-19 vaccination would help ensure health equity and strengthen our country's ability to overcome this national public health emergency.

We, therefore, request that the vaccine administration process include the measures discussed above and would appreciate your response to the following questions:

- 1. What kind of data on administered COVID-19 vaccines has the CDC received from all states, territories, and localities?
- 2. Has the CDC collected demographic breakdown of administered COVID-19 vaccines from all states, territories, and localities?
 - a. If so, what is the breakdown? Does it include race, ethnicity, age, zip code, occupation, disability status, gender, and sexual orientation (if available)?
 - b. If so, does this data breakdown by congressional districts?
 - c. Will it be made publicly available?
- 3. If the CDC has not collected demographic breakdown of administered COVID-19 vaccines, will the CDC begin doing so and when?
- 4. What is the CDC doing to ensure that social vulnerability in vaccine distribution is addressed?

We look forward to hearing from you on this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Grace Meng Member of Congress

CC: Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention