



June 16, 2021

Ms. Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

On behalf of the [Integrative Health Policy Consortium \(IHPC\)](#), we are writing to congratulate you on your recent confirmation to serve as the next Administrator of the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). IHPC is a broad-based coalition of organizations whose mission is to eliminate barriers to health. IHPC includes 26 organizations representing more than 650,000 state licensed, certified and/or nationally certified healthcare professionals, including medical doctors, registered nurses, doctors of chiropractic, naturopathic doctors, nutritionists, licensed acupuncturists, licensed massage therapists, and academic, research, clinical, and public education organizations.

In recent years, the consortium has worked closely with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop and promote recommendations issued by the non-partisan [Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force Report of 2019](#). This report, which was led by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH), highlighted pain as a leading health challenge to the nation and its direct impact on the opioid crisis. In addition, the report documented considerable evidence regarding health disparities in racial and ethnic minority populations in the prevalence and treatment of pain-related conditions that are attributed to factors of our current health systems. We look forward to working with HHS officials, including the CMS, to resume efforts regarding implementation of the report's recommendations. In addition, IHPC anticipates working with CMS to address priorities, which we [communicated](#) to the Biden-Harris HHS agency review team. These priorities include expanding the delivery of integrative health services and Medicare and Medicaid coverage of services. This may be accomplished by expanding the coverage of Section 2706 of the Public Health Service Act to include all public (federal) health programs. This provision, entitled, *Nondiscrimination in Health Care*," which became law through the Affordable Care Act, is vitally important.

Once again, congratulations on your confirmation. We are looking forward to working with you and wish you the best of luck in your new role.

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Erickson PhD, RN, CNS, APRN, APHN-BC

Margaret Erickson, PhD, RN, CNS, APRN, APHN-BD
Co-Chair, IHPC
CEO, American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation