

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 24, 2018

Hon. Eric Hargan  
Deputy Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

RE: 83 FR 26485

Dear Deputy Secretary Hargan:

We are writing you today regarding the process HHS is undertaking to facilitate better dialogue between Department leadership and the healthcare innovation industry. We are pleased to see the Department continuing to work on improving communication and understanding between themselves and those they regulate. Recognizing that the overall structure of this process is still in development, we are requesting Minnesota be robustly represented among the membership of any workgroup put together as a result of this process.

Minnesota is home to ‘Medical Alley’ and features the most densely concentrated medical technology cluster in the world. A significant number of innovative medical technology companies with extensive operations, including Medtronic, Boston Scientific, 3M, Smiths Medical, Abbot, Ecolab and Cantel Medical are located in Minnesota. The world-renowned Mayo Clinic and the largest private health insurer in the country, UnitedHealth Group, were founded in Minnesota and continue to be headquartered there.

Minnesota is also home to one of the most robust and significant health innovation early-stage ecosystems. These startup and early-stage companies consistently raise millions of dollars in venture capital. These companies are revolutionizing healthcare and healthcare delivery in a number of areas, including telemedicine, health IT and biotechnology. Additionally, more than \$2.5 billion in digital health exits have occurred since 2012 and Minnesota has been nationally recognized as a digital health investment hub. Minnesota companies, such as Optum and Mayo Clinic Ventures, are among those constantly investing in and developing new ways to impact the health and wellbeing of the American people.

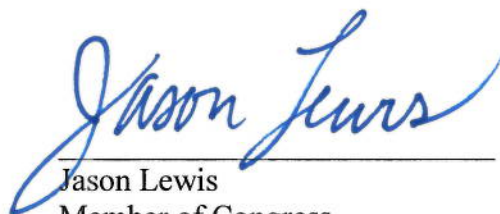
Our state’s history of health innovation and care provides a unique perspective on the current and future challenges facing this industry. Further, there is significant conversation and collaboration among this industry in Minnesota regarding the future of healthcare. This harmonizes with the Department’s objectives, and positions Minnesota’s health innovation and care industry to be a significant voice on this workgroup.

For these reasons, and many others, we request to have robust representation from Minnesota on this workgroup. Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,



Erik Paulsen  
Member of Congress



Jason Lewis  
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson  
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress