



The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra,

We applaud you and the leaders who compiled the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers (the Strategy). This effort is long overdue.

Your empathy and experience in this matter first-hand is what will make the difference in the initiative succeeding and the guidelines followed. As Acting ACL Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging Alison Barkoff most succinctly stated, "At some point in our lives, most of us will either be a family caregiver or need one. Many of us will experience both."

Velatura HIE Corporation, consisting of the Health Information Exchanges of Michigan, Missouri, Georgia; with active participation in Kansas, wholeheartedly embrace the tenants of (the Strategy). Combined, our not-profit digital infrastructure is responsible for exchanging health information for millions of patients within the states and those who travel to these states. In addition, as members and Board representatives of the national trade association for all Health Information Exchanges and Quality Improvement Organizations, CIVITAS for Health, we see this call to action as our WHY, what we strive to support everyday through our ability to create INTEROPERABILITY between the myriad technologies and systems supporting families inter and intra-state.

Health Information exchanges were created to support your described need under Goal 5 for better data collection, data integration, and data sharing to support family caregivers, care providers, and the research community. We've been committed, for over a decade, to creating interoperability, the ability to of different information systems, devices and applications (systems) to access, exchange, integrate and cooperatively use data in a coordinated manner, within and across organizational, regional and national boundaries, to provide timely and seamless portability of information and optimize the health of individuals and populations globally. Our organization and other HIEs across the country have been working diligently to advance these capabilities and partner with our state officials to build a national Health Data Utility infrastructure.

Health Data Utilities will serve the public by being a trusted and neutral entity that can collect, clean, and aggregate health data from various sources and securely share it with all those appropriate, most importantly patients themselves and their family caregivers. The goal is a more complete and accurate view of a person's health that's portable and usable for better care decisions, analysis, and research. We believe the tools and services offered through Health Data Utilities can serve as a critical asset for our country and help advance this national strategy to support family caregivers.

These and more reasons are why the HDU is a logical and next added value to the Strategy. On behalf of our organizations, our CEO- Dr. Tim Pletcher and the 250+ employees of our not-for profit and public



benefit corporation; we pledge to support the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers. We would also welcome the opportunity to participate in future matters related to this and those similar or contemplated by your Department.