

JOSH HARDER  
10TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA  
  
COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE  
  
COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND LABOR

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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February 19, 2021

Diana Espinosa, MPP  
Acting Administrator  
Heath Resources and Services Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20852

Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH  
Director  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Acting Administrator Espinosa and Director Walensky,

As the top officials overseeing the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, I write to bring to your attention the unacceptable lack of responsiveness from both your agencies on a top concern of mine regarding the lives of my constituents. **I seek immediate clarification if the Golden Valley Health Center in my District has been selected as a federal partner for vaccine distribution and if not, then I urge your agencies to partner with a Community Health Center (CHC) in California's 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, a region that has been hardest hit by the pandemic.**

Let me be clear, for my District, every minute without vaccines matters. It means Central Valley lives are forgotten and left behind. This is no time for delays. That is why your lack of responsiveness to my staff's inquiries is simply unacceptable. If the Golden Valley Community Health Center in California's 10<sup>th</sup> District has not been approved for the [federal partnership program](#), then I urge your agencies to partner with a CHC in our District, helping provide vaccines to a vulnerable region with high poverty rates and many Latino farmworkers on the frontlines of exposure to the virus. This region has been devastated by the coronavirus since day one of the pandemic.

My district has the third highest coronavirus deaths per capita in the state and the current spike in cases has overwhelmed our hospitals. Selecting one of the CHCs in our District would help the Administration achieve its goal of serving underserved populations, which our CHCs do each and every day. Our CHCs have a proven track record of serving the most in need populations, including Medi-Cal patients—which account for more than three-fourths of all of patients treated—and over 50,000 agricultural and migrant farmworkers, predominantly from low-income and Latino backgrounds.

While I am pleased to hear that you are looking to partner with a health center in Fresno, California, my constituents need a partnership closer to home. For many in my District who lack access to reliable transportation, the roundtrip commute to Fresno of more than four hours is simply not feasible. I urge you to partner with CHCs in our District to help get vaccines to people in more parts of the Valley.

In a region that is too often overlooked by federal programs and assistance, our CHCs are ready to serve through the Community Health Centers Vaccination Program. These facilities have been vaccinating patients and they are prepared to utilize any additional vaccines to continue their work in the Central Valley. I look forward to your timely response to this critical matter and ensuring CHCs get the COVID-19 vaccine to the Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a solid horizontal line.

Josh Harder

United States Representative (CA-10)