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January 22, 2021

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

CC
Norris Cochran
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Director Walensky,

I write to you today to express my deep concerns with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program (Program) and urge immediate actions to help improve and streamline the program for my constituents that rely on it. Federal guidance will be critical, especially in the coming weeks to ensure that those in our long-term care facilities (LTCF) receive their COVID-19 vaccines.

My district has the third highest coronavirus deaths per capita in my state¹, with residents of LTCFs accounting for just five percent of the cases, but a third of total deaths². The current spike in cases has overwhelmed our region's hospitals, rendering them without intensive care unit beds³. Dozens of local facilities and health care officials have reached out to my office raising grave frustrations with the lack of communication and delayed roll-out of the Program to our LTCFs. Despite enrolling in this Program in November 2020, many of our LTCFs have received zero communications from their facilitating pharmacy. These facilities are ready to vaccinate residents, but they simply need a supply of vaccines.

If these facilities do not get faster access to the vaccines, but remain at the Program's current rate, it will cost lives. Further federal support must be provided to better distribute these desperately needed vaccines to residents in our LTCFs.

¹ *Modesto Bee*, Brian Clark, [Coronavirus Update, Jan. 19, 2021: Stanislaus County surpasses San Joaquin in deaths](#), January 19, 2021

² *Los Angeles Times*, [Tracking the coronavirus in California nursing homes](#), January 21, 2021

³ *California COVID-19 Tracker*, [Statewide metrics](#), January 21, 2021

As the issues with the Program continue to place our LTCFs at risk, I request responses to the following questions:

1. What immediate options will be provided to our local LTCFs so they can receive a reliable supply of vaccines?
2. What is the expected timeline to receive vaccines through the Program or other federal support structures?
3. What accountability measures are in place with the partnership pharmacies, like CVS or Walgreens, to ensure that the roll-out of the program happens effectively?
4. How will the CDC work with the partnership pharmacies to ensure that they are clearly communicating with all local LTCFs that have been enrolled in the Program?

Given the extreme consequences around a lack of COVID-19 vaccine distribution, I urge swift action. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter and I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Josh Harder

United States Representative (CA-10)