November 16, 2021

The Honorable Bill Foster	The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi
U.S. House of Representatives	U.S. House of Representatives
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis	Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis
2157 Rayburn House Office Building	2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515	Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Foster and Krishnamoorthi:

On behalf of Advocate Aurora Health (Advocate Aurora) I am writing to express our appreciation to you for acknowledging our system's efforts to address vaccine hesitancy during your remarks at the field hearing, "*Building Vaccine Confidence: Our Shot at Curbing the Pandemic in Chicago and Beyond*," held in Chicago on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. We commend you for convening this important hearing to share lessons learned regarding how organizations – government, non-profits, and businesses – have been building vaccine confidence. We share your views that getting as many people vaccinated against COVID-19 is our best way to curb the pandemic and prevent and reduce illness and death from COVID-19. We were honored to be invited to attend this important community conversation.
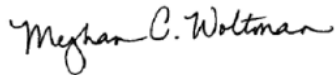
Attached to this correspondence for submission into the hearing record, you will find a slide deck which details the steps that we have taken to help build vaccine confidence, overcome vaccine hesitancy, and increase equitable outcomes in COVID vaccination. In particular, we have focused our efforts on reaching underserved communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. We are pleased to report that since launching our community education and outreach strategy and working with our Federally Qualified Health Center partners, we have vaccinated more than 20,000 people in underserved communities in Illinois and Wisconsin, providing targeted, accessible testing and vaccination to those in most need, including through the following:

- o **Mobile Health Outreach, Education and Testing Strategy**: This strategy, created early in the pandemic, relies on our sophisticated data analysis capabilities to determine the geographic areas most in need of education and testing. Mobile units were then deployed to targeted neighborhoods, bringing testing and other critically needed services to communities most affected by COVID-19.

- o **Community Vaccination Clinics:** We leveraged our strong relationships with established community partners to set up community vaccination clinics across Chicago and Milwaukee in hard-hit areas to augment the vaccination clinics at our sites of care.

    - In addition to providing the clinical resources to enable these clinics, we provide transportation to and from the clinic, as necessary, and continue targeted education and outreach to ensure community members get vaccinated.
    - Community clinics were established at the following locations:
        - ✓ Imani Village – Chicago
        - ✓ The American Airlines Conference Center at Gallagher Way – Chicago
        - ✓ University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
        - ✓ Sixteenth Street Community Health Clinic – Milwaukee
        - ✓ Midtown Clinic – Milwaukee

We still have more work to do and are steadfast in our commitment to continuing to engage in listening, outreach, and education. To that end, we have found that the most effective ways to overcome vaccine hesitancy is through addressing unique patient, consumer, and community partner needs to decrease hesitancy and increase vaccination outcomes.

As always, we stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to advance policies and programs that improve health, prevent illness, advance equity, address disparities, and strengthen our nation's response to the Public Health Emergency. If we can be of any assistance to you, Chairman Clyburn, or your colleagues, please do not hesitate to contact me (312-933-0455, Meghan.Woltman@aah.org) or Tom McDaniels at 202-409-0864, Thomas.McDaniels@aah.org.

Sincerely,

Meghan C. Woltman

Meghan Woltman
Chief Government Affairs Officer

cc: The Honorable James E. Clyburn, *Majority Whip & Chairman of the House Select Committee on the Coronavirus Crisis*