



January 3, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price
Office of the President-elect
1800 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Dr. Price,

I write today on behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society, to offer you any and all assistance in accessing the scientific resources and technological know-how that you may need as Secretary of Health and Human Services to address the country's most pressing challenges.

As Secretary, you will be leading a Department that can benefit tremendously from the outcomes of scientific research and input from scientists and engineers across a range of fields. We encourage you to appoint leading scientists and engineers to key posts on your team to ensure you have timely scientific and technical input on the important policy decisions you will face.

For decades, the Department, largely through the National Institutes of Health, has been the largest federal funder of non-defense research, and is crucial to training the next generation of biomedical innovators. Furthermore, social science research, including studies performed or funded by the Department, can provide critical insights into how to design effective patient care. Basing policy decisions on scientific evidence – rigorously obtained and thoroughly tested – is essential for assessing what works, what doesn't, and what options are most likely to achieve their desired outcomes. I hope that you will embed a science perspective throughout the Department – research that you can use in addition to the research that you fund.

The AAAS counts more than 100,000 members across every science and engineering discipline. We have a suite of programs focused on areas where science intersects society – from ethics and the law to education to diplomacy, and more. We publish high-quality research in our *Science* family of journals. The U.S. scientific community and the AAAS, in particular, are American assets at your disposal.

We look forward to working with you and your team at the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that you are able to draw on high quality scientific evidence to craft policies that best serve the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rush Holt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rush" and last name "Holt" clearly distinguishable.

Rush D. Holt
Chief Executive Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science
Executive Publisher, *Science* Family of Journals