



Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
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February 25, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

Earlier last year, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) heard from Mr. Jose Arrieta about HHS Accelerate, the government's first federally authorized blockchain infrastructure. MCCC and its members soon realized the tremendous opportunities for industry and therefore we partnered with Mr. Arrieta and his team to help the vision come to fruition. Over the last year, MCCC leadership invested their time in human-centered design sessions to provide the Accelerate team with their insights and feedback; we were thrilled to see how much progress was made in a short period of time. Subsequently, MCCC was proud to see HHS was able to achieve \$30 million in savings by leveraging the artificial intelligence capabilities of Accelerate, and we want to congratulate you on this accomplishment.

However, MCCC was highly concerned to see that the procurement to continue the work on Accelerate was cancelled. An innovation like Accelerate is providing incredible benefits for industry and the American taxpayers and therefore, it is imperative that this work continues.

As businesses and taxpayers in the greater DC Metropolitan area, many of which are government contractors, we rely heavily on the success and partnership of the federal government. Accelerate and Mr. Arrieta's team reflect the leadership and innovation this area needs to continue to grow businesses and move our economy forward. We strongly encourage you to continue the Accelerate program at HHS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Godwin".

Georgette "Gigi" Godwin
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Eric Hargan, Deputy Secretary
Mr. William Brady, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary
Mr. Scott Rowell, Assistant Secretary for Administration
Ms. Jennifer Moughalian, Assistant Secretary for Financial Resources

To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

