Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

October 07, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra Secretary U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

Secretary Becerra,

We write today to convey Alabama's concerns regarding the allocation of monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatments. As you know, mAb therapy is a proven and effective COVID-19 treatment. As such, we are concerned with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) decision to change America's mAb allocations.

HHS announced a plan for a new ordering process in which states are allocated mAb treatments based largely on each state's share of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Healthcare providers could no longer order mAb supplies directly from distributors and state health departments would order supplies through HHS and then to distribute mAb treatments to providers throughout the state. This change was done rapidly and with inadequate national input from states or healthcare providers, thus catching many healthcare providers off guard, especially in smaller clinics and more rural areas.

HHS's change appears to have caused Alabama to experience a significant drop in the amount of mAb dose availability, thus unnecessarily putting lives at risk. Further, it appears many healthcare providers and clinics have struggled with anticipating shipments, resulting in patients being unable to receive mAb therapy.

We ask HHS to clarify if the allocation formula will reduce the number of mAb doses allocated to states based on a state's ability to properly report to HHS how many mAb's were used.

Furthermore, we request an explanation of why there has been such a lack of clarity by HHS on when treatments will become available.

Lastly, we request HHS to state whether the mAb distribution formula change will impact Alabama's allocation and, if so, HHS's estimate of how much Alabama's allocation will go up, or down, based on the new mAb allocation formula.

We look forward to receiving your responses to our questions.

Sincerely,

Barry Moore Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Mo Brooks

Member of Congress

Gary Palmer

Member of Congress