

May 14, 2018

USPSTF Senior Coordinator
ATTN: USPSTF Nominations
Center for Evidence and Practice Improvement, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
5600 Fishers Lane Mailstop 06E53A
Rockville, MD 20857

Re: Nomination of Dr. Tomás Aragón for Membership to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I write to nominate Dr. Tomás Aragón, Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco, and Director of the Population Health Division for the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH), to serve as a member of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). NACCHO is the voice of nearly 3,000 local health departments across the country. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to promote and protect the public's health and safety in places where people work, play, travel, worship and live.

Dr. Aragón is an experienced public health executive, leader, and medical epidemiologist with demonstrated expertise in prevention, clinical medicine, epidemiology, and academic research. Since 2011, Dr. Aragón has directed core public health services for San Francisco, including epidemiology; surveillance; disease and injury prevention and control; health promotion; environmental health; performance (quality) improvement; maternal, child and adolescent health; public health emergency preparedness; and emergency medical services. San Francisco is home to 850,000 residents and serves a population of 1.5 million during the day. SFDPH has 8000+ employees and includes acute medical and trauma care, primary care, long-term care and rehabilitation, mental health, substance use, and core public health.

As Health Officer, Dr. Aragón exercises legal authority to protect and promote health and equity. He has used his extensive medical and public health training and expertise to lead the department's response to the opioid crisis, investigate infectious disease outbreaks, and transform the department's standing and relationship with the community. Dr. Aragón has coordinated strong multisectoral partnerships to address root causes of disease and death and foster healthy and resilient communities.

Throughout his 20+ years of service to the County and City of San Francisco, Dr. Aragón has exhibited a commitment to prevention in a variety of roles as a physician, public health practitioner, and educator. During the 1990s he characterized the racial health disparities in San Francisco, especially the burden of disease and injury impacts on the African American community. He produced reports and peer-reviewed articles, and served on community-led environmental justice committees. Shortly after, Dr. Aragón served as medical provider, clinical faculty, and medical epidemiologist for San Francisco General Hospital where he investigated and responded to flu outbreaks in the community, trained dozens of physicians, and provided preventive and emergency medical care to patients. Dr. Aragón co-led the San Francisco Bay Area Advanced Practice Center, where he guided a strategic partnership between SFDPH



and University of California Berkeley's Research Center for Infectious Diseases & Emergency Readiness (CIDER) to improve the region's preparedness for bioterrorism and communicable disease threats.

Dr. Aragón is an experienced academic educator and teaches computational epidemiology with an emphasis on public health data science and strategic decision making at the University of California (UC), Berkeley School of Public Health. Dr. Aragón has conducted research and published peer reviewed works focused on translating insights from population health data science into evidence-based policy, improving public health preparedness and response systems, and understanding the causes, correlations and chronic effects tied to harmful substances. He has used insights from his research and work to inform, and equip decision makers such as patients, providers, policy makers, colleagues, and community stakeholders with the tools necessary to improve health.

Dr. Aragón holds Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Public Health degrees from University of California, Berkeley, and Master of Public Health and Doctor of Medicine degrees from Harvard University. Dr. Aragón is a current member of the California State Governor's Advisory Committee on Precision Medicine and has served in instrumental roles on the Institute of Medicine Committee on the Assessment of Studies of Health Outcomes Related to the Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Biosurveillance Advisory Subcommittee; and was Chair of the Big Cities Health Coalition. He is a recipient of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health's Warren Winkelstein Epidemiology Award, San Francisco General Hospital's Julius R. Krevans Award for Clinical Excellence and the UC Berkeley's Ernest B. Collins Award.

Local health departments are a key partner with AHRQ, providing education and essential public health services to communities. Dr. Aragón's unique combination of medical, epidemiological, performance improvement, and public health expertise, along with his strident commitment to improving health and advancing equity, would make him a valuable member of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

Dr. Aragón is aware of this nomination and NACCHO offers our strongest recommendation for his candidacy. Please contact Laura Hanen, Chief of Government Affairs at lhane@naccho.org or 202-507-4255 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori Tremmel Freeman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Lori Tremmel Freeman, MBA
Chief Executive Officer