

Rep. Adams Hosts Secretary Becerra for Charlotte Visit



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CHARLOTTE – On Wednesday, July 7, **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra** travelled to Charlotte to discuss President Biden’s agenda to Build Back Better from the COVID-19 pandemic and make long-term investments in our future, including through the American Families Plan.

Hosted by **Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC-12), co-chair of the Black Maternal Health Caucus** in the United States Congress, Secretary Becerra made three stops in Charlotte.

[Exclusive pictures from the day’s events are available here for use by media outlets.](#)

“To Congresswoman Adams and each and every person I met with in Charlotte, thank you,” **said HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra.** “From boosting vaccine confidence to improving maternal health, we are well on our way to building a healthier America. I hope you will stand with us as we work to tackle these issues and make our recent gains in affordable health coverage permanent. With the American Families Plan, we can build back better, reduce health care costs for North Carolina families, invest permanently in paid family and medical leave, maternal health and much more.”

“I was honored to host HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra in Charlotte as we heard from community members about one of our country’s most important issues: health care,” **said Congresswoman Adams.** “Though the Biden Administration has made excellent progress fighting the COVID-19 pandemic by getting shots in arms and reopening our country, significant work remains. We must ensure affordable health care for all Americans; we must expand Medicaid, because everyone has the right to a healthy, productive life; and we must continue to advocate to end the

Black maternal health crisis. Our country's maternal health crisis – the worst in the developed world - is taking mothers away from their children at an alarming rate, and traumatizing the tens of thousands of parents who experience close calls before, during, and after delivering their children. I am proud to stand side by side with Secretary Becerra and President Biden in this fight.”

“Finally, I would like to recognize the hard work of Governor Roy Cooper, NC DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, and Mecklenburg County Public Health Director Gibbie Harris to crush the coronavirus in our community. Because of their tireless efforts to bring North Carolina back from the pandemic, we were able to gather today to continue to encourage all of our unvaccinated neighbors to take their spot and get their shot.”

During Wednesday's visit, Secretary Becerra and Congresswoman Adams spoke with scores of community advocates, health professionals, and folks from across the region. First, the Secretary held a press conference and health care roundtable to discuss the Biden Administration's success getting shots in arms and lowering health care costs. Additionally, Adams and Becerra advocated for the American Families Plan, which would bring costs down for North Carolina families.

Congresswoman Adams and Secretary Becerra then joined Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, Governor Roy Cooper, First Lady Kristin Cooper, and many local and state officials for a visit to a vaccination site at the Charlotte Transportation Center uptown to address the importance of boosting vaccine confidence to fight COVID-19.

Finally, Secretary Becerra and Congresswoman Adams toured the Charlotte Community Health Clinic at the Goodwill Opportunity Campus, then hosted a roundtable on the importance of investing in Black maternal health with NC DHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, NC State Senator Natalie Murdock, Dr. Pam Oliver, and over 20 stakeholders from across the Carolinas.

Congresswoman Adams is a lead sponsor of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus, a transformational package of 12 bills introduced in both the House and the Senate to address the Black maternal health crisis.

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