

May 6, 2021

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Robert I. L. Morrison

Senator Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), I am writing in support of the nomination of Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon as the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We believe Dr. Delphin-Rittmon has the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to lead the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Since 2015, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon has served as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), managing the State's publicly funded substance use and mental health service delivery system. In her role as Commissioner, she has been a member of NASADAD and has served on the Association's Public Policy Committee, providing guidance on federal legislative and regulatory efforts to address addiction. She has helped other States learn about innovative practices in Connecticut, presenting at NASADAD's Annual Meeting on numerous occasions and hosting NASADAD staff for a series of site visits to local publicly funded substance use disorder providers. In recognition of her dedication to effective and equitable substance use services in Connecticut, she received the NASADAD State Service Award in 2019. In sum, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon has been an invaluable leader at both the State and national levels for many years.

Prior to serving as Commissioner, she served as DMHAS's Deputy Commissioner, Senior Policy Advisor, and the Director of the Department's Office of Multicultural Healthcare Equity. In May 2014, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon completed a two-year White House appointment working as a Senior Advisor to the Administrator of SAMHSA. In this role, she led numerous policy initiatives addressing health equity, workforce development, and healthcare reform.

Dr. Delphin-Rittmon received her B.A. in Social Science from Hofstra University, her M.S. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Purdue University. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical community psychology at Yale University, and she currently serves as an Associate Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine.

We strongly support the confirmation of Dr. Delphin-Rittmon to as Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use. We look forward to working with you as the nomination process moves forward.



Robert Morrison
Executive Director
National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)