

February 18, 2021

Senator Patty Murray, Chairwoman
Senator Richard Burr, Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Murray and Burr:

On behalf of the Endocrine Society, I am writing today to express our support for the nomination of Dr. Rachel Levine for the position of Assistant Secretary of Health (ASH).

The Endocrine Society is the world's oldest, largest, and most active organization dedicated to the understanding of hormone systems and the clinical care of patients with endocrine disorders and diseases. Our membership of over 18,000 physicians and researchers who are experts in diabetes, thyroid, menopause, reproduction, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, osteoporosis, obesity, and other hormone health topics. As such we are deeply committed to accelerating scientific breakthroughs to improve health and addressing the difficult and pressing health policy decisions.

Dr. Levine's background makes her deeply qualified and uniquely suited to help lead the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at this critical time. A graduate of Harvard University and Tulane Medical School, Dr. Levine is an accomplished pediatrician who was appointed in 2015 by Governor Tom Wolf as Pennsylvania's physician general, the state's top doctor. Impressed with her background in behavioral and mental health, the state Senate voted unanimously to approve her. In 2017 she was named Acting Secretary of Health and confirmed as Pennsylvania's health secretary. Her efforts to contain the coronavirus; fight and prevent diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis C, and diabetes; reduce health disparities, end the opioid epidemic; and support the LGBTQ community reflect her knowledge, and expertise to lead public health efforts and successfully work with key health offices and programs across HHS, local and state health departments, and multiple physician, researcher, and patient groups.

The Endocrine Society has had the opportunity to work with Dr. Levine on several key initiatives and witness her intelligence, commitment to public health, and effective leadership. She spoke at our annual meeting in 2017 during a plenary about transgender health, research, and taught many of our members about important physician and patient considerations; she presented at a educational briefing we conducted for congressional offices about transgender health and provided valuable information about access to care; and she provided feedback on a pilot quality improvement study we conducted in Pennsylvania to reduce the incidence and severity of hypoglycemia in older patients with type 2 diabetes.

Dr. Levine's dynamic and innovative leadership will prove invaluable during this critical time in public health as our nation battles not only the pandemic but other serious health crises, including the growing epidemics of diabetes drug addiction and inequities in health care. We know Dr. Levine will be able to take huge strides to protect our nation's health.



We urge you to support the nomination of Dr. Rachel Levine so that the full Senate will be able to swiftly confirm her to the position of HHS Assistant Secretary of Health. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact Mila Becker, Chief Policy Officer at mbecker@endocrine.org.

Sincerely,

Gary D. Hammer, MD, PhD
President, Endocrine Society