



SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

Global Leadership for Health Education & Health Promotion

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairman, Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Minority Member, Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support of Nomination of Dr. Rachel Levine as DHHS Assistant Secretary for Health

Dear Senators Murray and Burr:

The [Society for Public Health Education](#) (SOPHE) strongly supports the nomination of Rachel Levine, MD, to serve as Assistant Secretary for Health at the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

As Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since 2018, Dr. Levine has been a progressive and effective leader in addressing the opioid epidemic, advancing LGBTQ equity, protecting rural health, and directing the state's public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, Dr. Levine's experience as president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is invaluable to understanding the work and needs of frontline public health workers.

At this time in our nation's history, Dr. Levine's experience and decisive leadership is especially needed at the national level to oversee key health offices and programs across the department, 10 regional health offices nationwide, the Office of the Surgeon General and the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. SOPHE applauds Dr. Levine's nomination and looks forward to working with her in addressing the inequities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and overall health, including those of LBGQT community.

Founded in 1950, SOPHE provides global leadership to the profession of health education and health promotion and promotes the health of society. SOPHE members represent some 4,000 professionals and students at the national level and in 22 chapters who work in state/local government and other agencies to advance health education theory and research, develop disease prevention and health promotion programs, and promote public policies conducive to health.

SOPHE urges the Senate to promptly confirm Dr. Rachel Levine as DHHS Assistant Secretary for Health.

Sincerely,

Cam Escoffery, PhD, MPH, CHES®
President, 2020-2021

Elaine Auld, MPH, MCHES©
Chief Executive Officer

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