



AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

May 14, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA), I write to urge the Committee to report the nomination of **Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, PhD**, as Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services swiftly and favorably to the full Senate. APA is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States with nearly 122,000 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants, and students as members and affiliates. Our mission is to advance the creation, communication, and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people's lives.

Dr. Delphin-Rittmon is exceedingly well qualified for this position given her expertise in behavioral health ranging from service delivery to health care reform and her experience as Commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), where she previously served as Deputy Commissioner, Senior Policy Advisor, and Director of the Office of Multicultural Healthcare Equity. She also brings expertise related to addressing health equity and is committed to promoting recovery-oriented, integrated, and culturally responsive services and systems that foster dignity, respect, and meaningful community inclusion. Dr. Delphin-Rittmon was instrumental in leading Connecticut's response to the opioid crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring that those living with a mental health and/or substance use disorders were not left behind. It is no wonder that, since 2017, Mental Health America has ranked Connecticut the top state in the nation for mental health services – a ranking that is attributable to Dr. Delphin-Rittmon's hard work and determination.

As an Assistant Professor and Director of Health Disparities Research and Consultation with the Program for Recovery and Community Health in the Yale Department of Psychiatry, she spearheaded system-level strategic planning and policy development geared toward eliminating health disparities and promoting recovery-oriented care and individual, organizational, and system level cultural competence enhanced through training, program design, and evaluation.

It is also important to note that Dr. Delphin-Rittmon is very familiar with the internal workings and programs of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) In May of 2014, she completed a two-year White House appointment working as a Senior Advisor to the SAMHSA Administrator. In this role she worked on a range of policy initiatives addressing behavioral health equity, workforce development, and health care reform. This direct familiarity with the agency will enable her to begin on day one to enhance behavioral health services across the nation as we continue to address the

ongoing and long-lasting effects of the pandemic.

On a personal note, I have had the great pleasure of knowing Dr. Delphin-Rittmon for the past 18 years. She was one of my first post-doctoral fellows at Yale University and then became a close colleague as she quickly moved through the ranks at DMHAS where I also held the position of Deputy Commissioner. She is of impeccable character with a brilliant mind, dedicated to the growth and professional development of her employees, and is committed to ensuring that people receive the behavioral health care that they need. To achieve this goal, she draws upon a population health approach to deliver preventive and early intervention services that focus upstream to reduce the incidence of serious mental illness and the need for crisis-related services.

In closing, I would like to thank you in advance for your serious consideration of Dr. Delphin-Rittmon for Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and Substance Use. She is a well-respected behavioral health expert whose decades of experience are vitally needed as our nation faces a once-in-a-lifetime public health crisis. We urge the Committee to move quickly to favorably refer Dr. Delphin-Rittmon's nomination to the full Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur C. Evans, Jr.', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD  
Chief Executive Officer