June 4, 2021

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 organizations working to expand access to substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery programs and services, we are 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. DHMAS serves approximately 110,000 individuals annually in part through 13 local mental health authorities Statewide, and 160 community private nonprofit providers. The agency is comprised of 3,200 employees with an operating budget of approximately $720 million. In addition, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon served as co-chair of the State’s Alcohol and Drug Policy Council, an entity designed to develop a coordinated Statewide response to alcohol and other drug problems.

During her tenure, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon worked to navigate a number of complicated challenges. For example, she had to quickly adapt to the ever-changing needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon worked to lead the State in addressing the opioid epidemic – utilizing innovative tools to save lives and enhance access to services along the continuum. Finally, she provided leadership during times of crisis – including natural disasters that included floods and hurricanes.

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. Currently, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon serves as an Associate Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine and has been Director of Cultural Competence and Health Disparities Research and Consultation and Yale’s Program for Recovery and Community Health (PRCH).

Dr. Delphin-Rittmon has received number of awards throughout her career, including the 2019 State service award from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) and the 2016 Mental Health Award for Excellence from the United Nations Committee on Mental Health.
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.

Sincerely,

American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Disorders (AATOD)

Addiction Professionals of North Carolina

Behavioral Health Association of Providers

California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)

Connecticut Certification Board

Faces and Voices of Recovery

Illinois Association of Behavioral Health

Legal Action Center (LAC)

NAADAC-the Association for Addiction Professionals

National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP)

National Association for Children of Addiction (NACoA)

National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)

National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD)

Partnership to End Addiction

Shatterproof

Treatment Communities of America (TCA)

Young People in Recovery (YPR)