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April 3, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price, MD  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
The Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C., 20201

Dear Secretary Price,

On behalf of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), a national medical specialty representing more than 4,300 physicians and allied health professionals who specialize in the treatment of addiction, I am writing to express our support for Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz for the position of Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use.

Dr. McCance-Katz boasts significant expertise in psychiatry and addiction medicine, gained over decades of practice as a clinician, teacher, and researcher. Moreover, she has demonstrated her capability as an effective executive and civil servant as the head of a major state substance use disorder agency and the first Chief Medical Officer of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Her combined medical expertise and executive experience uniquely qualify her to succeed as the first Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and Substance Use.

Additionally, Dr. McCance-Katz's background in addiction psychiatry will be especially valuable to this Administration as it seeks to combat the current epidemic of opioid addiction and overdose deaths. She is particularly well-suited to help inform the Administration's efforts to expand access to effective treatment for opioid addiction, a goal which we share with the President.

Finally, we'd like to commend the work of Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Kana Enomoto, and express our support for her continued work as one of SAMHSA's senior leaders. During her tenure as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Ms. Enomoto has overseen the careful

development and efficient implementation of major addiction policy changes, skillfully represented the Administration's policies in numerous high profile and public events, and increased SAMHSA's engagement and collaboration with external stakeholders. Her impeccable civil service is to be lauded.

Thank you for considering our recommendation. We hope Dr. McCance-Katz will be quickly confirmed in the role of Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and Substance Use, and look forward to working with her and the entire Administration to advance sound policy related to addiction treatment and recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Jeffrey Goldsmith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "J".

R. Jeffrey Goldsmith, MD, DLFAPA, DFASAM  
President, American Society of Addiction Medicine

CC. Keagan Lenihan, Associate Director and Special Assistant to the President