



April 27, 2017

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Dear Chairman Alexander and Senator Murray:

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.

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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. We understand that she is passionate about expanding access to evidence-based, high-quality care for people with addiction, including medication-assisted treatment for addiction involving opioid use. She is committed to improving education about addictive disease among all clinicians including physicians, pharmacists, nurses and, counselors, and through increasing specialty addiction physician fellowships, so that we can build a workforce with the capacity and expertise to close the current addiction treatment gap. We believe 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 and Secretary Price.

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Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of Dr. McCance-Katz's nomination. We hope that she will be quickly confirmed in the role of Assistant Secretary for 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 "K. Clark".

Kelly J. Clark, MD, MBA, DFAPA, DFASAM  
President, American Society of Addiction Medicine

CC: All Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Members