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January 25, 2021

Dear US Senate:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the United States Professional Association for Transgender Health (USPATH), we strongly support the appointment of Dr. Rachel Levine to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Health.

Dr. Levine is an experienced professor of pediatrics and psychiatry, and a seasoned public health professional whose career has been focused on improving health across communities and populations. She has been providing important health leadership in Pennsylvania, first in her role as the State's Physician General (2015-2017), and later as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health (2017 to present). During her tenure, she has fought to improve the health and well-being of all Pennsylvanians and handled significant health crises that have impacted the state. As Physician General, she allowed law enforcement personnel to carry the anti-overdose drug naloxone, which led to saving thousands of lives.

Her experience as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health showcased her skill in handling the politics along with the science surrounding healthcare. Her actions in promoting evidence-based care in handling the COVID-19 pandemic in Pennsylvania highlight her ability to navigate the politics of healthcare while effectively communicating with a broad audience on how to protect one another from the virus. Dr. Levine routinely works with the Assistant Secretary of Health's office to build critical bridges between federal and state policies on the pandemic and other matters. Her election as current President of Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is a clear testament to the level of faith other public health leaders have in her leadership.

Dr. Levine is a highly qualified and experienced candidate for the position of Assistant Secretary of Health. She will bring to the Health and Human Services Administration essential and unmatched leadership, grounded in a distinguished career marked by success in health and public service. We recommend the confirmation of Dr. Levine with highest regard.

Respectfully,

USPATH Board of Directors