

November 24, 2015

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The undersigned health and medical organizations write to offer our full support for the nomination of Karen DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc as Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee approved Dr. DeSalvo's nomination by unanimous consent on Aug. 5 and we urge the full Senate to approve her nomination without further delay.

Dr. DeSalvo has a long and distinguished career in public health and medicine and is highly qualified to serve as Assistant Secretary for Health. As the current Acting Assistant Secretary of Health and the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Dr. DeSalvo leads the federal government's efforts to modernize the nation's health information technology system, with the goal of improving the electronic exchange of health information and delivering higher quality health care for patients. As Acting Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. DeSalvo also helped to coordinate the federal response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. In this role she leads the development of important policy recommendations to improve the nation's health through HHS programs and agencies.

Prior to serving in her current role at HHS, Dr. DeSalvo served as Health Commissioner for the City of New Orleans from 2011 to 2014. In this capacity she worked to modernize the city's health department to improve access to and delivery of health care services across the city, strengthen emergency preparedness and reduce violence. She also worked to address the obesity epidemic through the Fit NOLA Program which encourages residents to increase physical activity and improve nutrition, while enhancing the city's built environment to increase opportunities for active transportation such as biking and walking. Dr. DeSalvo also served in various leadership roles at the Tulane University School of Medicine from 1996 to 2011.

We strongly endorse Dr. DeSalvo's nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary for Health at HHS and urge the Senate's swift confirmation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alaska Public Health Association
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American Dental Association
American Medical Student Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Public Health Association
American Sexual Health Association

American Telemedicine Association
Asian & Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Minority Health Professions Schools
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Center for Women Policy Studies
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc. (COA)
Futures Without Violence
HealthHIV
Healthy Teen Network
Hepatitis Foundation International
Idaho Public Health Association
Iowa Public Health Association
Louisiana Public Health Association
Maine Public Health Association
Minnesota Public Health Association
Movement is Life
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
National AHEC Organization
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Center for Farmworker Health
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Council for Diversity in the Health Professions
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Nursing Centers Consortium / Community Health Partners for Sustainability
Nevada Public Health Association
New York State Public Health Association
North Dakota Public Health Association
Oncology Nursing Society
Pennsylvania Public Health Association
Public Health Institute
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Society of General Internal Medicine
The AIDS Institute

The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America
Trust for America's Health
Washington State Public Health Association
YMCA of the USA