



June 8, 2021

Honorable Patty Murray, Chair  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions,  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions,  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), I am writing in support of confirmation of Dr. Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon as the next Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use and Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NAMI values Dr. Delphin-Rittmon's two decades of experience in the mental health field and her commitment to creating a mental health system that fosters dignity, respect, and meaningful community inclusion.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. The communities we serve and advocate for are as diverse as our nation. NAMI is a voice for youth and adolescents, veterans and service members, individuals involved with the criminal justice system, those experiencing homelessness, family caregivers and everyday Americans who are impacted by mental illness. We are all connected by the shared hope of new and innovative treatments, improved health care coverage and support through recovery.

COVID-19 is an unprecedented crisis that affects not only our physical health and daily lives, but also our mental health. We need a SAMHSA administrator who will work to ensure that people in need of mental health and substance use disorder care are able to access services when and where they need it. As a clinical psychologist with experience working in state and federal mental health agencies, we believe Dr. Delphin-Rittmon is the type of leader needed to advance the health and well-being of people with mental health and substance use conditions across the nation.

As Commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Dr. Delphin-Rittmon earned a reputation for promoting recovery-oriented, integrated, and culturally responsive mental health care services. She also has extensive experience in the design, evaluation and administration of mental health, substance use and prevention services and programs.

We believe Dr. Delphin-Rittmon is well situated to step back into a leadership role at SAMHSA and we proudly support her confirmation. We look forward to working with her to ensure that all people with mental health conditions, including those with the most serious mental illnesses, live

fulfilling lives supported by a community that cares. We urge the Committee to move expeditiously on her nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel H. Gillison, Jr." in a cursive style.

Daniel H. Gillison, Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer