



**Senate Public Health and Welfare
Confirmation Hearing for Secretary of Health
Karen Murphy, RN, MS, PhD.
Tuesday, May 12, 2015**

Good Morning Chairman Vance, Chairman Kitchen, and members of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. My name is Karen Murphy and it is an honor to come before this committee and seek your approval to serve as the 28th Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth.

I would like to begin by saying that I recognize and applaud the critical role the Pennsylvania Legislature has played in supporting the Department of Health throughout the years. The most recent focus has been on passing laws to ensure the public's health and safety. This was evidenced with the passing of Act 139 of 2014 which expanded the availability of Naloxone and ACT 191, ABC-MAP, to help combat prescription drug abuse and the heroin addiction epidemic that has enveloped not only the Commonwealth, but the nation as a whole

I value the opportunity to work with you to continue the mission of improving health for all Pennsylvanians.

My experience as a registered nurse, healthcare system CEO and federal healthcare executive has afforded me unique qualifications to lead the Pennsylvania Department of Health. I believe that this experience has prepared me to lead the Department of Health to its next level of efficiency, organization and strength.

As the top regulator of healthcare delivery in Pennsylvania, it will be my responsibility to develop innovative strategies to allow the Department to manage its resources in the most efficient manner. Whether it is the oversight of healthcare facilities, community based healthcare providers or nursing homes; it is the department's mission to ensure the safe delivery of world class, innovative, quality health care for all Pennsylvanians.

The Department will also work with legislators to review current legislation guiding the health department to meet the health needs of the Commonwealth.

We will be working to innovate within the Department as well as work with your constituents to improve health, improve health care delivery and lower cost in Pennsylvania. To support our efforts, the department will leverage a \$3 million healthcare innovation grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. In this year's budget we seek an additional \$3 million to support our efforts.

I, as well as the entire department and the Governor's office, am committed to seeing that the Pennsylvania Department of Health leads the nation in state-led initiatives in promoting health, improving health care delivery and lowering costs. I am committed to working closely with this committee, as well as the legislature as a whole, to help improve the health of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

I want to again thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today and ask for your endorsement to serve as the Secretary of Health, and I will be happy to take any questions you might have at this time.