



February 9, 2023

Dear Chairman Hoffman and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Arizona's physician community, we respectfully request your support for the nomination of Dr. Theresa Cullen, MD, MS, as director of the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Like you, we are dedicated to serving all Arizonans. More specifically, we are thoroughly committed to protecting and advancing health care for every resident in our state. Our organizations pursue this commitment by tirelessly advocating for policies and practices that support safe, high-quality patient care. However, optimal patient care can only be achieved through the cooperative work of strong organizations, healthcare professionals, *and* leaders, which is why we request your support for Dr. Cullen. As you'll find justified in the following synopsis of her qualifications, Dr. Cullen is the visionary leader that our state needs at the helm of its health department.

Dr. Cullen is a University of Arizona College of Medicine graduate with an extensive background in public health and informatics. Amongst her many impressive roles, she has served in the U.S. Public Health Service for 25 years and as chief medical officer and director of informatics for the Veterans Health Administration.

Dr. Cullen is a consummate professional and is supremely qualified for the role. In her role as director of the Pima County Health Department, she showed exemplary leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and stood up for rational, science-based policies. Her experience in this role will give her a valuable perspective on running one of the state's largest agencies.

Among numerous other recognitions of her work, Dr. Cullen received the Arizona Medical Association's Public Health Service Award and the Pima County Medical Society's Physician of the Year Award in 2022. Both organizations recognized her for her expertise and commitment to public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. She confronted seemingly impossible challenges head-on while showing compassion and empathy for all members of the health care team, both in direct care and public health. Her resolve will allow our state to continue to recover and rebuild in the wake of the tragic pandemic.

Dr. Cullen said it best: “Throughout the pandemic, we have been reminded that public health is a team sport; the entire state and our local communities are strengthened through our health partnerships, made better through collaboration, and fortified when we work together.”

We hope to have your support for Dr. Cullen and would be happy to answer any further questions about her qualifications.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Hartmark-Hill, MD, FAAFP
Arizona Medical Association, President

Steven Lindauer, MD
Arizona Society of Anesthesiologists, President

Stephen Mecham, DO
Arizona Psychiatric Society, President

Anil Prasad, MD, FCAP, FASCP
Arizona Society of Pathologists, President

Roy Loewenstein, MD
Pima County Medical Society, President

Christian O. Twiss, MD
Arizona Urological Society, President

Laura Mercer, MD, MA, MPH, FACOG
American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists, Arizona Section Chair

Brandon Abbott, DO, MPH, FAAP
Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association,
President

Zaid Fadul, MD, FS, FAAFP
Maricopa County Medical Society, President

Alysha Vartevan, DO
Arizona Radiological Society, President