



American College of
Preventive Medicine

The Honorable Donald Trump, President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), the national medical specialty society for physicians whose primary expertise lies in disease prevention and health promotion, applauds your choice of Dr. Don Wright as Acting Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and endorses Dr. Wright for the permanent position. Recognizing this is an interim appointment we encourage you to make it permanent based on Dr. Wright's qualifications, track record, and leadership promoting and protecting the health of our nation.

Now is the time for the federal government to lead a transformation of health care that places greater emphasis on prevention; both as a lever to drive down our ever-increasing health costs and to improve our nation's abysmal health outcomes as compared to the rest of the developed world.

Dr. Wright has effectively served as Acting Assistant Secretary for Health since February 2017, and would bring to the Secretary position an impressive background focused on public health, healthcare quality, disease prevention, and health promotion. As the Director of the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP), Dr. Wright oversaw the development of evidence-based health policies, such as the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, and national actions plans to address adverse drug events and healthcare-associated infections. He also provided leadership for Healthy People 2020, a framework for public health priorities comprised of a comprehensive set of ten-year national health objectives.

Dr. Wright also has served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Healthcare Quality, the principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health, and the alternate U.S. delegate to the World Health Organization Executive Board. Prior to HHS, Dr. Wright was the Director of the Office of Occupational Medicine for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), where he organized and moderated nationwide conferences to enhance hospital emergency preparedness for natural disasters, terrorism, and pandemic influenza. Dr. Wright is board-certified in both family medicine and preventive medicine.



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The country needs someone with the background and expertise of Dr. Wright in disease prevention and health promotion to stem the growth of preventable conditions that impact the quality of life of our people and reduce our economic competitiveness. We need to shine a brighter light on major public health issues affecting all areas of society such as continued global health threats, access to core preventive health services, and the opioid crisis. If employers are having difficulty finding candidates who can pass a drug screen, our hope for sustained growth and prosperity will be dashed.

We cannot be a great nation if our people are not healthy!

ACPM once again thanks you for your wise choice for Acting HHS Secretary, and we fully endorse Dr. Wright for the role of Secretary of HHS. ACPM looks forward to working with the Administration on national efforts to promote prevention and public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert W. Carr MD, MPH, FACPM".

Robert Carr, MD, MPH, FACPM
President

Cc: Don Wright, MD, MPH