



March 30, 2009

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
Chairman, Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Senator Kennedy:

The American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) urges the Committee to support the nomination of Governor Kathleen Sebelius as Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). ASHP believes that Governor Sebelius is an excellent choice to lead HHS.

ASHP is the 35,000-member national professional association that represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals and other components of health care systems. Hospital and health-system pharmacists serve on interdisciplinary patient-care teams, ensuring that the use of medicines is safe, effective, and cost-conscious.

Governor Sebelius will bring the hands-on experience needed to lead HHS into a new era rooted in innovative efforts to increase access to care and a higher standard of quality. Governor Sebelius has a proven track record of managing large public programs such as her own Medicaid program in Kansas and also as Commissioner of Insurance. Moreover, she has shown an understanding of the important role pharmacists can play as a key member of the health care team by supporting the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy in Lawrence and its Wichita campus.

Through her leadership, ASHP believes the goals of improving our health care system through progressive reforms such as health information technology will be realized. We urge her confirmation and look forward to working with her and the committee on important health policy issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henri R. Manasse, Jr.', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Henri R. Manasse, Jr., Ph.D., Sc.D
Executive Vice President and CEO

CC: ASHP Board of Directors

TOGETHER WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM