



February 1, 2017

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: David Shulkin, M.D. nominee for Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Dear Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Tester:

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), representing over 52,000 members, is pleased to support the nomination of VA Under Secretary for Health, David Shulkin, M.D., for Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). ASA believes that Dr. Shulkin is the right choice to lead VA and continue efforts to improve, advance and modernize health care services for our nation's Veterans.

As the VA's Under Secretary for Health since March 2015, Dr. Shulkin has already had a great impact on Department priorities to ensure all of our nation's Veterans receive access to safe, high-quality health care. His experience as a physician, continued commitment to Veterans and his tenure leading large health care systems make him uniquely qualified for the position of Secretary of VA. ASA is honored to offer strong support for Dr. Shulkin's nomination and we urge the Committee to vote favorably on his confirmation.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Plagenhoef, M.D.
President
American Society of Anesthesiologists