



June 10, 2021

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to express our support for S. 412, the National Coronavirus Commission Act of 2021. We appreciate your leadership in sponsoring this bipartisan legislation that would establish an independent non-partisan commission to examine how our nation responded to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as determine our ability to prepare and respond to future public health crises.

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician membership society in the United States. ACP members include 163,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Internal medicine specialists treat many of the patients at greatest risk from COVID-19, including the elderly and patients with pre-existing conditions like diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

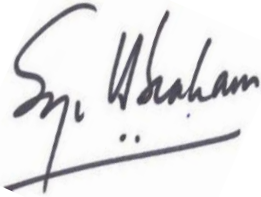
ACP supports the concept of a congressionally-mandated bipartisan commission to examine the U.S. preparations for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to inform future public policy and health systems preparedness. We are pleased that earlier this year you introduced S. 412, the National Coronavirus Commission Act of 2021. This legislation would establish a ten-member independent body comprised of prominent Americans with expertise in government service, public health, commerce, scientific research, public administration, intelligence gathering, national security, and/or foreign affairs. The Commission will hold public hearings and issue a publicly available report to the President and Congress within 18 months of its inception. The Commission will have a broad mandate and subpoena power to examine the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, and it will make a full and complete accounting of the nation's preparedness and response infrastructure to respond to a future global health crisis.

We believe that it is essential that the commission include physicians with expertise in pandemic preparedness and response, including primary care physicians who have been on the frontlines of treating patients with COVID-19. Our physicians have the experience, expertise, and knowledge to guide the commission to determine - in a thorough non-partisan manner -

the areas in which we can improve our nation's preparedness and response to future pandemics.

We appreciate your introduction of this legislation and look forward to working with you to build support for this bill and to move it forward toward final passage in both chambers of the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George M. Abraham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath.

George M. Abraham, MD, MPH, FACP, FIDSA
President