



February 10, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I would like to express our strongest possible support for President Biden's nomination of Vivek Murthy, M.D., M.B.A. to the position of Surgeon General of the United States. Dr. Murthy is a well-respected internal medicine physician specialist with decades of public health experience, who will again serve the country well in this role. It is vitally important to report Dr. Murthy's nomination to the full Senate as quickly possible so that he can fully engage in responding to the ongoing public health emergency (PHE) caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

In November 2019, Dr. Murthy was named co-chair of the COVID-19 Advisory Board to help the incoming Biden administration coordinate its response to the COVID-19 PHE. In this capacity, he aided in formulating the federal government's pandemic response regarding vaccine supply and distribution as well as the use of the Defense Production Act (DPA). The Biden administration has since used the DPA to help speed up response, including vaccine production. This experience and familiarization will allow Dr. Murthy to immediately hit the ground running to help lead the federal government's response to the COVID PHE.

Dr. Murthy previously served as the Surgeon General from 2014 to 2017 in exemplary fashion. During this time, Dr. Murthy lead several public health initiatives to improve the nation's overall health, including the national response to the opioid crisis, the rising use of e-cigarettes, the

health impacts of climate change, and mental health challenges, such as the detrimental effects of loneliness. Dr. Murthy also led the U.S. Public Health Service and its Commissioned Corps, managing the nation's response to Ebola and Zika as well as the Flint, MI drinking water crisis.

Prior to being Surgeon General, Dr. Murthy was an esteemed faculty member at Harvard Medical School and hospitalist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. He was a strong advocate for making health insurance coverage available to all Americans through the Affordable Care Act and is a proven leader who can build coalitions among diverse individuals to ensure better health for our communities. Additionally, Dr. Murthy had extensive experience with protecting the public's health, including serving on the U.S. Presidential Advisory Council on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health; co-founding VISIONS Worldwide in 1995, a non-profit organization focused on HIV/AIDS education in India and the United States; and co-founding TrialNetworks, an organization aimed at optimizing the quality and efficiency of clinical operations at each stage of a trial from feasibility through closeout.

Therefore, ACP strongly encourages the HELP Committee to swiftly report to the full Senate the appointment of Dr. Murthy to the position of Surgeon General of the United States. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqueline W. Fincher MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jacqueline W. Fincher, MD, MACP
President