



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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February 24, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

I write to express support of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) for the nomination of The Honorable Vivek Murthy, MD, as Surgeon General of the United States.

The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 155 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; more than 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their more than 179,000 full-time faculty members, 92,000 medical students, 140,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

As you know, the Surgeon General not only oversees the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS) and the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, but also provides Americans with the best scientific information available on how to improve their health and reduce the risk of illness and injury. Among other initiatives, during his tenure as the 19th Surgeon General, Dr. Murthy issued, "Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health," the first Surgeon General's report on addiction, and a call to action to health professionals around the opioid epidemic. This crisis has heightened in urgency in the last few years, particularly during the pandemic, and Dr. Murthy's leadership and experience will be essential.

For years, Dr. Murthy also has been outspoken about the public health implications of isolation, loneliness, and stress. This expertise will be particularly relevant during and after the COVID-19 pandemic to promote well-being within the general public and among frontline clinicians who have been serving their communities under harrowing conditions over the past year.

Both of these areas – preventing, identifying, and treating substance use disorders and supporting the well-being of our nation’s health care workforce and their communities – have been high priorities for the AAMC, and we look forward to working with Dr. Murthy to continue that work and other important efforts. With the wide range of public health and health care challenges facing the population, the AAMC believes that Dr. Murthy will offer a powerful vision for improving the health of people everywhere. We support his nomination and urge the Committee and the full Senate to vote to confirm him expeditiously. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David J. Skorton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David J. Skorton, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
Association of American Medical Colleges

cc: The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader