



February 26, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
430 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
430 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Burr,

On behalf of March of Dimes, the nation's leading non-profit organization fighting for the health of all moms and babies, I write to express our strong support for the nomination of Dr. Vivek Murthy to the position of Surgeon General of the United States. 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 caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

The U.S. Surgeon General provides vital counsel to the Secretary of Health and Human Services on public health and medical issues, in addition to serving as the head of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. As such, it has traditionally been the role of the Surgeon General to be "America's doctor," attuned to the health care needs and priorities of all Americans. The Surgeon General has singular opportunities to use his or her position to call attention to vital health issues, educate Americans, and help shape public discourse on the nation's health. Dr. Murthy possesses all the qualification and qualities for the position of Surgeon General. His extensive accomplishments in the medical, business and academic communities reflect a keen intellect, tremendous energy, and a passion to improve patient health. His combination of experience and expertise in these fields give him unique insights into both the challenges and opportunities facing our health care system.

Dr. Murthy previously served as the Surgeon General from 2014 to 2017, and we believe he is well-positioned to serve the country again in this role. During his previous service, Dr. Murthy led important public health initiatives focusing on topics such as obesity, mental health, childhood immunization, and addiction. As Vice Admiral of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Dr. Murthy also helped manage the country's response to Ebola and Zika, experience that will prove invaluable in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, Dr. Murthy's recent work as co-chair of the COVID-19 Advisory Board during the Biden-Harris Transition will enable him to get started on day one to support the federal government's pandemic response.

Prior to his tenure as Surgeon General, Dr. Murthy made valuable contributions through his service on the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health, which advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services on the National Prevention Strategy and top preventive health priorities. Given his past experience with health education and grassroots organizing, Dr. Murthy can be expected to have an energetic social media presence, which is a vital tool for reaching and educating many Americans about a range of health issues. March of Dimes looks forward to working again with Dr. Murthy as Surgeon General on initiatives to address our nation's maternal and infant public health crisis.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer our strong support for Dr. Murthy's nomination. If we can provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact KJ Hertz, Senior Director, Federal Affairs (khertz@marchofdimes.org, 571.969.8655).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rahul Gupta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rahul" and the last name "Gupta" clearly distinguishable.

Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, MBA, FACP
Senior Vice President & Chief Medical and Health Officer