



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

January 23, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chair
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: In support of the President's nomination of Dr. Vivek Murthy for the position of Surgeon General

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the 110,600 members of the American Academy of Family Physicians, I am pleased to support the President's nomination of Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA for the position of Surgeon General of the United States.

In his career as a physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital and as an instructor at Harvard Medical School, he has demonstrated many important leadership qualities that will contribute to his success as a Surgeon General. Perhaps the two most important are a clear belief in the importance of preventive health and the ability to communicate the principles of effective health care to a wide and diverse population. As "the nation's doctor," the Surgeon General is particularly important in bringing to Americans the message of preventive health. With Dr. Murthy's service on the National Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion and Integrative and Public Health, he has shown his ability and commitment to deliver that message, and to do so effectively.

Dr. Murthy is an energetic and creative medical leader, who has established two non-profit organizations to promote health care and one technology company to improve the quality and efficiency of clinical trials. By showing that he has the skills needed to bridge generations and diverse groups of people, he will be a Surgeon General who will appeal to Americans of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

www.aafp.org

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| President | President-elect | Board Chair | Directors | |
| Reid B. Blackwelder, MD <i>Kingsport, TN</i> | Robert L. Wergin, MD <i>Milford, NE</i> | Jeffrey J. Cain, MD <i>Denver, CO</i> | Wanda D. Filer, MD, <i>York, PA</i> Rebecca Jaffe, MD, <i>Wilmington, DE</i> Daniel R. Spogen, MD, <i>Reno, NV</i> Carlos Gonzales, MD, <i>Patagonia, AZ</i> H. Clifton Knight, MD, <i>Indianapolis, IN</i> Lloyd Van Winkle, MD, <i>Castroville, TX</i> | Yushu "Jack" Chou, MD, <i>Baldwin Park, CA</i> Robert A. Lee, MD, <i>Johnston, IA</i> Michael Munger, MD, <i>Overland Park, KS</i> Kisha Davis, MD, (New Physician Member), <i>North Potomac, MD</i> Kimberly Becher, MD, (Resident Member), <i>Culloden, WV</i> Tate Hinkle (Student Member), <i>Brownsboro, AL</i> |
| Speaker | Vice Speaker | Executive Vice President | | |
| John S. Meigs Jr., MD <i>Brent, AL</i> | Javette C. Orgain, MD <i>Chicago, IL</i> | Douglas E. Henley, MD <i>Leawood, KS</i> | | |

We share the President's great confidence that Dr. Murthy is a physician leader who will make an outstanding Surgeon General and we urge the Committee and the Senate to confirm his nomination as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JJC".

Jeffrey J. Cain, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair