

December 3, 2020

The Honorable Joe Biden
President-Elect
United States of America
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

Our nation and citizens are facing health care challenges on multiple levels. Addressing these challenges will require steadfast leadership from competent and experienced individuals. There are many talented individuals who are positioned to serve the nation, but we believe that your Administration and the country would be well-served by the appointment of qualified physicians to serve in key positions critical to advancing the health of our nation. Therefore, our organizations, which represent more than 400,000 frontline physicians practicing in the United States, write to request that you identify and appoint physicians to health care leadership positions within your Administration.

Our organizations and our members stand ready to work with you. Clearly, we must continue our collective efforts to combat, control and defeat the COVID pandemic. However, we also face other important challenges – an aging population that is growing sicker, an ongoing opioid epidemic, a dramatic decrease in vaccination rates among children and adults, alarming increases in maternal mortality rates, decreases in access to reproductive health care and an expanding need for mental and behavioral health services. Identifying solutions to these challenges is important and physician leaders are uniquely prepared to lead a national conversation on the best approaches to addressing these issues and implementing workable solutions.

As you consider candidates for health care-focused positions within the White House, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Resources and Services Administration and many other agencies, we urge you to strongly consider appointing physicians to these positions. We believe that your administration and the country would be well served by such an effort.

Thank you for your consideration. Again, our organizations and members stand ready to assist you and your Administration in addressing the health care challenges facing our country. Please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Psychiatric Association