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Dear Colleague,

Please join us in urging Senate Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell to expedite the confirmation of Dr. Vivek Murthy for Surgeon General of the United States.

With the expanding Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the recent diagnosis of Ebola cases here in the United States, it is vital that the American people have a Surgeon General to educate them about the disease and how to best protect their health. The Surgeon General is America's doctor, and the trusted medical spokesperson who can reassure the American public about the risk of exposure, and what precautions and protocols are being enacted to protect them. However, this position has been vacant for over one year and the Senate has yet to confirm Dr. Murthy since he was nominated in November 2013.

The Surgeon General would also amplify the Center for Disease Control's message and act as the unifying voice for American's public health system. At this critical time, the American people need their Surgeon General, who is the nation's leading public health official, to provide sound advice and combat misinformation.

If you would like to sign on, or for more information, please contact Monica Pham in Congresswoman Barbara Lee's office at Monica.pham@mail.house.gov. The text of the letter is below.

Respectfully,

Judy Chu
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Chair, CAPAC

Barbara Lee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Co-Chair , CAPAC Health Care Task Force

Ami Bera, M.D.
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
Co-Chair, CAPAC Health Care Task Force

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write to urge you to expedite the confirmation of Dr. Vivek Murthy for Surgeon General of the United States. The Ebola epidemic continues to spread across West Africa and has now recently resulted in the first death and two cases of Ebola transmission in the United States. Given the public's increasing fears regarding the spread of the disease, it is imperative that we confirm a Surgeon General who will play a significant role in educating the American public about the disease and how to best protect their health.

The United States and other world leaders, NGOs, and international public health organizations have committed significant resources to combat this epidemic; yet the virus continues to spread at an alarming rate. Though the risk of an Ebola outbreak in the United State is low, the possibility of exposure and the number of cases increasing in the United States requires a strong response from the Government. The American public would benefit from having a Surgeon General to disseminate information that is desperately needed.

The Surgeon General can also work to amplify the Center for Disease Control's actions, reassure the American people, and combat misinformation here at home. As the epidemic continues in Africa, many individuals in the United States are eager to know what their government is doing to protect them and what is being done to ensure their safety.

The Senate has an opportunity to confirm an eminently qualified physician to be our Surgeon General. This position has been vacant for over a year — even though President Obama nominated Dr. Vivek Murthy in November 2013.

Dr. Murthy is supported by the nation's preeminent health and physician groups, including the American Public Health Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Cancer Society, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Physicians, the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Diabetes Association, and over 50 other organizations. Dr. Murthy is also backed by leading representatives of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities that have previously urged the Senate to prioritize his confirmation, including the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and the

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum. The Ebola scare that is permeating the public health conscious should be an opportunity to increase the public's awareness of the disease and our nation's response to it. Dr. Murthy comes with a distinguished record of excellence that is greatly needed at this time, and we urge you to confirm him as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Diala Jadallah
Legislative Director | Rep. Barbara Lee [CA-13]
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