![American Hospital Association — Advancing Health in America]

Washington, D.C. Office
800 10th Street, N.W.
Two CityCenter, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20001-4956
(202) 638-1100

March 4, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, our clinician partners, including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to support the nomination of Vivek Murthy, M.D., M.B.A. as the Surgeon General of the United States for the second time.

Dr. Murthy is a well-respected internal medicine specialist with decades of public health experience. As the U.S. Surgeon General from 2014 to 2017, Dr. Murthy demonstrated strong public health expertise, including helping to lead the response to Ebola, Zika and the opioid crisis. He is a trusted voice and will be a valuable communicator with the American people.

Prior to being Surgeon General in 2014, Dr. Murthy was a faculty member at Harvard Medical School and a hospitalist at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He has been a strong leader for making health care insurance coverage available to all Americans. He has a strong track record of being able to build coalitions with diverse voices to ensure healthier communities.

The AHA looks forward to working with Dr. Murthy again if he is confirmed as U.S. Surgeon General and supporting his critical work to improve health care across America. He is the right person to help lead our national efforts to battle COVID-19 and allow for a return to a "new normal" across the country.

Sincerely,

/s/

Richard J. Pollack
President and CEO