



December 5, 2024

Dear Senator,

As the nation's leading organizations representing health care professionals and scientists specializing in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases, we write in advance of you beginning the "advice and consent" process associated with a new presidential administration to emphasize the critical importance of a comprehensive vetting and confirmation process for any nominee charged with protecting and promoting the nation's health. We hope you will find helpful the following key qualifications we believe any appointee must embody:

- **Evidence-based decision-making and communications:** a steadfast reliance upon the best available proven scientific evidence as the foundation for policy decisions and communications;
- **Knowledge and collaboration:** an experienced understanding of medicine and science, and the ability to work with public health professionals, researchers and clinicians to benefit the nation's people;
- **Integrated and balanced approach to health:** a commitment to address both chronic diseases and infectious diseases in a holistic manner that recognizes the many ways in which the two are inextricably linked, including that people with chronic diseases are at greater risk for infectious diseases and worse outcomes, and that infections can cause chronic diseases as well as significant populational impacts due to their transmissibility;
- **Transparent communication and accountability:** a dedication to ensuring federal health agencies and scientists share high-quality, rigorous scientific data with the public and that the public continues to have opportunities to provide input into the development and promulgation of rules and regulations;
- **Innovation:** a promise to maintain America's long-standing leadership of gold standard biomedical research;
- **Biosecurity:** a recognition of the role that health, including infectious diseases, plays in national security.

Our organizations stand ready to be a resource as you carry out your crucial constitutional responsibilities and exercise extremely careful consideration of any health agency nominee. We further stand ready to work with the individuals confirmed to lead our nation's health agencies.

Sincerely,

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