Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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,

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Ami Bera M.D.
Member of Congress

Joe Crowley
Member of Congress

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress

Luis Gutiérrez
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress

Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Madeleine Bordallo
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

John Conyers Jr.
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress

Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress

Yvette Clarke
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

José E. Serrano
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

Marcia L.Fudge
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne Jr.
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke
M.C.

Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress

Steve Israel
Member of Congress

Loretta Sánchez
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Robert A. Brady
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Joaquín Castro
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

Donna Edwards
Member of Congress

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

James P. Moran
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Eni Faleomavaega
Member of Congress

Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress

Joe Garcia
Member of Congress

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

Susan Davis
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Sam Farr
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress