

November 19, 2020

Emily Murphy  
Administrator  
U.S. General Services Administration  
1800 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Murphy,

We are former public health officials, public health and medical school deans, and public health and medical experts and researchers. At a moment when the COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly worsening across the country, every additional day that the presidential transition is delayed compromises the incoming administration's ability to respond, and thereby places American lives at risk.

The Presidential Transition Act ensures that the President-elect and Vice President-elect have the resources they need to establish a new government. Most importantly, it guarantees the transition team access to government officials so that it may coordinate with them for the seamless transition of power. The access and resources guaranteed under the Presidential Transition Act only become available once the Administrator of the General Services Administration (GSA) "ascertain[s]" the identity of the "apparent successful candidates" of a presidential election.

In light of the public health crisis facing the nation, it is imperative that you ascertain Joe Biden as President-elect immediately under the Presidential Transition Act. Doing so will enable the incoming Biden team to liaise with key health officials in the Trump Administration and prepare a robust, coordinated response to the pandemic. That coordination is critical to the Biden team's ability to evaluate vaccine development and prepare plans for vaccine distribution and deployment; fully understand state and local capacity to test for, trace, and treat COVID-19; develop specific mitigation strategies for businesses, schools, and other gathering spots; assess the national production capacity and supply chains for essential medications, personal protective equipment, and other needed medical supplies and equipment; gauge hospital bed and intensive care unit capacity and staffing; and much more.

Past presidential transitions that have intersected with moments of national adversity, like that during the 2008 financial crisis, have been characterized by order and cooperation between the incoming and outgoing administrations. The GSA admirably played its role in facilitating the transition then. It can and should do so once again.

With the pandemic worsening nationwide and only two months until the transition of power, every day the transition is delayed is a day the country cannot afford. Ensuring a rapid and smooth transition will save American lives. We urge the GSA to make an ascertainment immediately and permit the formal transition process to begin.

Sincerely,

**(Note: Institutional affiliations listed for identification purposes only.)**

**Sten Vermund, MD, PhD**

Dean, Yale School of Public Health

**Mary Pendergast, JD**

Former Deputy Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

**Leana Wen, MD, MSc, FAAEM**

Former Health Commissioner, City of Baltimore

**G. Thomas Chandler, PhD, MS**

Dean, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina

**Daniel Lowenstein, MD**

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, UCSF

**Michael Stamos, MD**

Dean, School of Medicine, University of California Irvine

**Bill Corr, JD**

Former Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Waxman Strategies

**Peter Lurie, MD, MPH**

President, Center for Science in the Public Interest

**Michael Carome, MD**

Director, Health Research Group, Public Citizen

**Georges Benjamin, MD**

Executive Director, American Public Health Association

**Arthur Caplan, PhD**

Mitty Professor of Medical Ethics, NYU School of Medicine

**Harlan Krumholz, MD**

Harold H. Hines Jr. Professor of Medicine, Yale University

**Linda Birnbaum, PhD**

Former Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

**Peter Staley**

AIDS Activist

**Nishith Jobanputra, DO, MPH, MTM&H**

Oncology Therapeutic Head, Safety, Agios Pharmaceuticals

**Amy Meltzer, MD, MPH**

American College of Preventive Medicine

**Robert Cook-Deegan, MD**

Professor, Arizona State University

**George Annas, JD, MPH**

Director, Center for Health Law, Ethics & Human Rights, Boston U. School of Public Health

**Patricia Cristofaro, MD**

Assistant Professor, Brown University

**Dan Wohlfeiler, MJ, MPH**

Co-Founder, Building Healthy Online Communities

**Susan Forsyth, PhD, RN**

Assistant Professor, California State University, East Bay

**Malcolm Harkins, JD**

Professor of Practice, Center for Health Law Studies, St. Louis University School of Law

**Keith Loud, MD, MSc**

Chair of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock

**Cynthia Cirolla, MD**

General pediatrician, Colorado Permanente Medical Group

**Ahmed Khan, MD**

Columbia University

**Stephen Goff, PhD**

Professor, Columbia University

**Helen Towers, MD**

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Columbia University

**Brian Johnson, MD**

Program Director, Contra Costa

**Sarah McNeil, MD**

Core Faculty, Contra Costa Regional Medical Center

**David Weinstock, MD**

Professor, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

**Nina Sand-Loud, MD, CM**

Physician, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center

**Susanne Tanski, MD, MPH**

Vice Chair and Section Chief of General Pediatrics, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

**John Stevens, DNP, MSN, APRN, ANP-BC**

Clinical Director, deNovo Health

**Timothy Lash, DSc, MPH**

O. Wayne Rollins Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology and Chair, Department of Epidemiology, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

**E.J. Holland, Jr., JD**

Former Assistant Secretary for Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Alex Wagenaar, PhD**

Research Professor, Emory University Rollins School of Public Health

**Kenneth Moch, MBA**

President, Euclidean Life Science Advisors

**James Goodrich, MD, MPH**

Retired, Fellow, American College of Preventive Medicine Fellow, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

**Jianming Cao, PhD**

Professor, Florida State University

**Kimani Paul-Emile, JD, PhD**

Professor, Fordham University School of Law

**Rebecca Sheets, PhD, CAPT (retired)**

Principal Consultant, Grimalkin Partners

**Rachel Riskind, PhD**

Associate Professor of Psychology, Guilford College

**David Golan, MD, PhD**

Dean for Research Operations and Global Programs, Harvard Medical School

**Meir Stampfer, MD, MPH, DrPH**

Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

**Zsuzsanna McMahan, MD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins

**Anthony So, MD, MPA**  
Professor of the Practice, Johns Hopkins  
Bloomberg School of Public Health

**Jacky Jennings, PhD, MPH**  
Professor, Johns Hopkins School of  
Medicine

**James Brasic, MD, MPH**  
Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins  
University

**Amanda Tjemsland, MPH**  
Epidemiologist, Kitsap Public Health  
District

**Elizabeth Koehne, MD**  
Resident Physician, Loyola University  
Medical System

**Michael Bazigos, PhD**  
Senior Partner, major global consultancy

**Clarence Lam, MD, MPH**  
Senator, Maryland General Assembly

**Quyen Ngo-Metzger, MD, MPH**  
Former Scientific Director, U.S. Preventive  
Services Task Force

**Juan Andino, MD, MBA**  
House Officer, Michigan Medicine Urology

**Mathew Reeves, DVM, PhD**  
Professor, Epidemiology, Michigan State  
University

**Karissa Silver, MEd**  
Professor/Counselor, Montgomery College

**Brian Liu, PhD**  
Sr. Medical Science Liaison - Urology,  
Myriad Genetics

**Jack Killen, MD**  
Deputy Director, National Center for  
Complementary & Integrative Health, NIH  
(retired), National Institutes of Health  
(retired)

**Cynthia A. Pearson**  
Executive Director, National Women's  
Health Network

**Donna Levin, JD**  
National Director, Network for Public  
Health Law

**Madeline Kim, BS**  
Program Coordinator, Network for Public  
Health Law

**Jennifer Piatt, JD**  
Senior Attorney, Western Region Office,  
Network for Public Health Law

**Carrie McLachlan, MPA**  
Program Development Manager, Network  
for Public Health Law, National Office

**Jeremy Lai, MD, MBA**  
Resident Physician, Northwestern Feinberg  
School of Medicine

**Stephen Hoff, MD**  
Professor, Northwestern University

**Kyle Ferguson, PhD**  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Medical  
Ethics, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

**Howard Trachtman, MD**  
NYU Grossman School of Medicine

**Kathi Kemper, MD, MPH**  
Professor, Ohio State University

**Alison Norris, MD, PhD**  
Associate Professor, Ohio State University

**Michael Rich, MD, MPH**  
Senior Global Health Physician, Partners In Health

**Lisa McGiffert**  
Co-founder, Patient Safety Action Network

**Margaret Liu, MD**  
Principal, ProTherImmune

**Kathryn Haley, PhD**  
Postdoctoral researcher, RCSI

**Gary Timm, MS, MA**  
Retired EPA

**Josh Rising, MD, MPH**  
Rising Health Strategies

**Alex Kral, PhD**  
Distinguished Fellow, RTI International

**Carolyn Heckman, PhD**  
Co-Leader, Cancer Prevention and Control Program, Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

**Jeffrey Bishop, MD, PhD**  
Professor of Philosophy, Tenet Chair in Bioethics, Saint Louis University

**Robert Gatter, JD**  
Professor of Law, Saint Louis University

**Sidney Watson, JD**  
Jane and Bruce Roberts Professor of Law, Saint Louis University Center for Health Law Studies

**Elizabeth Pendo, JD**  
Joseph J. Simeone Professor of Law, Saint Louis University School of Law

**Ana Santos Rutschman, SJD, LL.M.**  
Assistant Professor of Law, Saint Louis University School of Law

**David Scheer, AB, MS**  
Scheer & Company, Inc., Compassionate Use and Preapproval Access (CUPA) Working Group, Board Member, Global Virus Network

**Jesse Goldner, MA, JD**  
John. D. Valentine Professor of Law, School of Law, Saint Louis University

**Perry Halkitis, PhD, MS, MPH**  
School of Public Health, Rutgers University

**Deborah Stine, PhD**  
President, Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy Analysis & Education, LLC

**Robert Kaplan, PhD**  
Professor, Stanford University

**David Magnus, PhD**  
Thomas A. Raffin Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Ethics, Stanford University School of Medicine

**Kavita Patel, MD, MSHS**  
Nonresident Fellow, The Brookings Institution

**April Shaw, PhD, JD**  
Staff Attorney, The Network for Public Health Law

**Anna Schmalzbauer, MPP**  
Sr. Program Manager, The Network for Public Health Law

**Stacy Lindau, MD, MAPP**  
Professor, The University of Chicago

**Jackie Ramirez, MS**  
Research Manager, The University of Chicago

**Yulia Demidovich, MD**  
Clinical Instructor, The University of  
Chicago

**Jennifer Booker, PhD, RN**  
Registered Nurse, Thomas Jefferson  
University

**Peter Meinke, PhD**  
CEO, Tri-Institutional Therapeutics  
Discovery Institute

**David Kling, PhD**  
Associate Administrator for Homeland  
Security (retired), U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency

**William Stokes, DVM**  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Public Health Service  
(Ret), U.S. Public Health Service, Retired

**Jennifer Karlin, MD, PhD**  
Assistant Professor, UC Davis

**Dorit Reiss, LLB, PhD**  
Professor of Law, UC Hastings College of  
the Law

**Shelley Jung, MSPH, PhD(c)**  
Researcher, UCLA

**Adva Gadoth, PhD, MPH**  
Epidemiologist, UCLA

**Fred Gottlieb, MD**  
Clinical Professor, UCLA School of  
Medicine

**Sanford Newmark, MD**  
Clinical Professor, UCSF

**Marlene Martin, MD**  
Director of Addiction Care Team, UCSF

**Casey Jackson, MS, CCRP**  
Research Quality Manager, UMB

**Bertha Hidalgo, PhD, MPH**  
Associate Professor, University of Alabama  
at Birmingham

**Amelia Villagomez, MD**  
Child and adolescent psychiatrist, University  
of Arizona

**Patricia McDaniel, PhD**  
Professor, University of California San  
Francisco

**Cristina Gruta, PharmD**  
Clinical Pharmacist; Asst. Clinical  
Professor, University of California, San  
Francisco

**Leslie Dubbin, PhD, MS, RN**  
Assistant Professor, University of  
California, San Francisco

**Sara Ackerman, PhD, MPH**  
Associate Professor, University of  
California, San Francisco

**Charlene Harrington, PhD, RN**  
Professor, University of California, San  
Francisco

**Carolyn Chu, MD, MSc**  
Associate Professor, University of  
California, San Francisco

**Wendy Max, PhD**  
Professor, University of California, San  
Francisco

**Keith Yamamoto, PhD**  
Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and  
Strategy, University of California, San  
Francisco

**Hannah Snyder, MD**  
Assistant Professor, University of  
California, San Francisco

**Diana Coffa, MD**

Director, Family and Community Medicine  
Residency Program, University of  
California, San Francisco

**Teresa Villela, MD**

Chief of Family and Community Medicine,  
University of California, San Francisco and  
San Francisco General Hospital

**Joshua Aizen, MD**

University of Chicago Hospitals

**Cecilia Low Wang, MD**

Professor of Medicine, University of  
Colorado

**Julia Brant, MD**

Instructor, University of Colorado

**Jennifer Braverman, MD**

Assistant Professor, Division of Maternal  
Fetal Medicine, University of Colorado

**Lauren Treat, MD**

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University  
of Colorado

**Jesse Davidson, MD, MPH, MSc**

Associate Professor, University of Colorado

**Emily Sweeney, MD**

Physician, University of Colorado School of  
Medicine

**Megan Kelsey, MD, MS**

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, University  
of Colorado School of Medicine

**Robert Gallo, MD**

Co-Founder & Director of the Institute Of  
Human Virology (IHV), University of  
Maryland

**Karen Rothenberg, JD, MPA**

Marjorie Cook Professor Emeritus of Law;  
Senior Scholar, University of Maryland;  
Johns Hopkins

**Joel Fishman, MD, PhD**

Professor, Radiology, University of Miami

**Patricia Koman, MPP, PhD**

Research investigator, University of  
Michigan

**Beverly Smith-Keiling, PhD, MPH**

Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota

**Anne Cappola, MD, ScM**

Professor, University of Pennsylvania

**Diane Morse, MD**

Associate Professor of Psychiatry and  
Medicine, University of Rochester School of  
Medicine

**Laura Ferguson, PhD, SM, MA**

Director of Research, Assistant Professor of  
Preventive Medicine, University of Southern  
California, Institute on Inequalities in Global  
Health

**Catherine Troisi, PhD**

Associate Professor, University of Texas  
School of Public Health

**Cathy Laurie, PhD**

Senior Principal Scientist, University of  
Washington

**Sarah Wahlster, MD**

Assistant Professor of Neurology,  
University of Washington

**Anna Wald, MD, MPH**

Professor, University of Washington

**Bud Nicola, MD, MHSA, FACPM**  
Affiliate Professor, University of  
Washington School of Public Health

**Pilar Ossorio, PhD, JD**  
Professor, University of Wisconsin

**Noelle LoConte, MD**  
Associate Professor of Medicine, University  
of Wisconsin

**Nellie Wixom, RD**  
Faculty, URM

**Frank Gilliland, MD, PhD**  
Professor, USC

**Sandra Eckel, PhD**  
Associate Professor, USC

**Mary Smith, JD**  
Former Chief Executive, Indian Health  
Service, U.S. Department of Health and  
Human Services, VENG Group

**Jim Allen, BS Aeronautical Science**  
Retired, Vietnam Helicopter Pilots  
Association

**Joe Aloï, MD**  
professor of medicine, Wake Forest Baptist  
Health

**Alain Bertoni, MD, MPH**  
Professor and Associate Director Public  
Health Sciences, Wake Forest School of  
Medicine

**Yanling Yu, PhD**  
Co-founder and President, Washington  
Advocate for Patient Safety

**Lisa Pereira-Wookee, APRN, FNP**  
FNP, WellMed Medical Management, Inc.

**Bill Reger-Nash, EdD**  
Professor Emeritus, West Virginia  
University School of Public Health

**Saad Omer, MBBS MPH PhD**  
Director, Yale Institute for Global Health

**Amy Kapczynski, JD, MPhil, MA**  
Professor of Law, Yale Law School

**Reshma Ramachandran, MD, MPP**  
Fellow, Yale National Clinician Scholars  
Program

**Peter Guarino, MPH, PhD**  
Assistant Clinical Professor, and Executive  
Director Statistical Center for HIV/AIDS  
Research and Prevention, Yale University  
School of Public Health, and Fred  
Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**Rebekah Gee, MD, MPH, MSHPT**

**Kathleen Bryson, MA**

**Anna Hing, MPH**

**Deborah Liptzin, MD, MS**  
Associate Professor

**Sara Donahue, MA**

**Aimee Roseborough, DPT**

**Alison Santana, MD**

**Robert Moler, PhD**

**Poorna Ramachandran, DO**

**Erin McNulty, MD, FACOG**

**Marilyn Kamp**

**Edward Forsyth, MD**



**John Moritsugu, PhD**

**Alison Auster, MD**

**Sarah Butler, MD**

**Redhwan Al-Naggar, PhD**  
Professor of Community Medicine

**Sarah Faubel, MD**  
Professor of Medicine

**Lauren Christiansen-Lindquist, PhD,  
MPH**  
Director of Graduate Studies for MPH &  
MSPH Programs in Epidemiology,

**Gisele Chetrit, BA, BTS, DSA Business  
Administration**

**TJ Thompson, MD, MPH, RD**

**Christine Soran, MD, MPH**

**Prerna Khanna, MD, MPH**  
Medical Director

**Dennis Klinman, MD, PhD**  
Senior Consultant

**Michael Gluck, PhD, MPP**

**Penelope Fenner-Crisp, PhD**  
Independent Consultant in Toxicology and  
Risk Assessment