

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 1, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, and members of the U.S. Senate HELP Committee:

We write in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Jerome Adams for the position of Surgeon General of the United States. As our Indiana State Health Commissioner and a highly regarded anesthesiologist, he has the experience and demonstrated leadership to promote the public health and bring awareness to some of our most pressing public health challenges as our nation's top physician.

First appointed by then-Governor Mike Pence in 2014 and re-appointed by Governor Eric Holcomb this year, Dr. Adams has worked tirelessly as Indiana State Health Commissioner to combat the opioid epidemic, reduce infant mortality, and lower Indiana's high smoking rates.

When the opioid epidemic led to an HIV outbreak in Scott County, just one month after Dr. Adams started as State Health Commissioner, he responded quickly, working with our local, state and federal governments, to contain the spread of the disease. His leadership has helped control infection rates and helped to put in place the necessary supports to assist and protect vulnerable Hoosiers.

In order to prevent further outbreaks across the country, Dr. Adams has continued to raise awareness with our colleagues in both the House and Senate about the dangers of opioid abuse, and he has provided valuable advice on how to respond to the opioid epidemic.

We believe that, as our nation's top physician, Dr. Adams will be a strong advocate for public health and will bring critical knowledge and skill to this office. We urge the committee to support his nomination.

Sincerely,

  
Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator

  
Todd Young  
United States Senator