

December 7, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

President-Elect Biden's Health Department Nominees Have Needed Expertise to Move America Forward

The American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP) congratulates Xavier Becerra and Dr. Vivek Murthy on their nominations by President-elect Biden to serve as the Secretary of Health and Human Services and US Surgeon General, respectively. As a national nonprofit committed to professional development, mental health, and advocacy for underserved communities, AMHP looks forward to working with the President-elect's healthcare leadership team in support of the nation's public health.

“These appointments will equip Biden's health team with the critical leadership needed to address the COVID-19 public health crisis and we look forward to working closely with the new administration to mitigate its impacts,” said **AMHP President Dr. Hasan Shanawani**.

“The COVID-19 crisis has been devastating globally and it has also highlighted our shared vulnerabilities and strengths,” added **Dr. Sana Syed, AMHP Health Policy and Advocacy Board Director**.

“Healthcare cannot be a partisan issue anymore as being healthy is a universal aspiration and right. If confirmed, Xavier Becerra and Dr. Vivek Murthy would be a step in the right direction to defeating this pandemic and ensuring access to health care for all.”

AMHP launched the National Muslim Task Force for COVID-19 alongside other partner organizations, which has now grown to over 40 national organizations bringing together public health and medical professionals, civic and faith leaders, social justice and policy experts. The Task Force created scientific guidelines attuned to religious sensibilities in addition to recommendations to help Muslims safely live, work and worship in this time of unprecedented suffering and isolation. AMHP has also used its expertise in health policy to advocate for a stronger federal and state government response to address critical issues during the pandemic.

AMHP is a national nonprofit dedicated to bringing together and strengthening the impact of Muslim health professionals to improve the health and well-being of all Americans.

END

CONTACT: AMHP Communications Coordinator, Raahima Shoaib, communications@amhp.us, (805) 428-9497