



May 16th, 2023

The Honorable Dr. Vivek H Murthy, *19th and 21st U.S. Surgeon General*
200 Independence Ave SW, Humphrey Bldg. Suite 701H
Washington, DC 20201

Dear U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy:

On behalf of the Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness (the Coalition) and our members undersigned, we are writing to express strong support for the Surgeon General's recently released advisory, *Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation*, highlighting the healing effects of social connection and community, and bringing attention to the public health crisis caused by loneliness and isolation. The Coalition represents a diverse group of members including consumer groups, patient advocates, health plans, community-based organizations, behavioral health groups, and private sector innovators and collectively advocates for comprehensive federal and state solutions to address the growing crisis of social isolation and loneliness in the United States. We commend you for authoring this critically important advisory to bring awareness and offer solutions to this issue.

As we know, strengthening the social connectedness of our communities is essential in order to improve the health and wellbeing of people and communities and must be a national priority. Addressing loneliness is as vital to protecting our health as addressing obesity, tobacco, or addiction. The Surgeon General's Advisory lays out a National Strategy to Advance Social Connection, which outlines a vision for a collaborative, multi-sector approach to fostering individual and institutional action. This holistic approach, as well as other recommendations for interagency coordination and cooperation, were included in the Coalition's [2023-2024 Policy Priorities](#).

We strongly support the Surgeon General's acknowledgement of the public health crisis that is social isolation and loneliness and applaud you for championing this issue that affects so many in this country and around the world. This advisory is a critically important step to support individuals who are facing social isolation and loneliness in communities across the United States.

The Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness looks forward to continuing to support your efforts and will work alongside you to address this critical issue. The Coalition applauds your leadership in authoring this important advisory and offering the nation a path forward towards a more socially connected and healthy society.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Executive Director, Jillian Racoosin (jillian@social-connection.org) with any specific questions.

Sincerely,

Members of the *Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness*:

American Psychological Association



DOROT

Eventbrite

Front Porch Community Services

Healthy Places by Design

Los Angeles Social Isolation Impact Coalition

Lyft

Meals on Wheels America

Motion Picture & Television Fund

NeverTechLate

Project UnLonely

Resilient Georgia

Sunny

The Clowder Group

The Foundation for Art & Healing

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