



Committee of 100

December 3, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20505

RE: Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Candidacy:
Dr. David Ho

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of Committee of 100, I write today to provide our strongest recommendation for the nomination of Dr. David Ho to serve as the next director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Ho is one of the world's leading medical minds and an American of the highest personal character. He would be an ideal counselor to you and your Administration on the multifaceted challenges and opportunities we face in medical research and innovation, preparing for future health challenges, and improving equity in health care for all Americans.

Dr. Ho revolutionized the world's understanding of HIV/AIDS and has been at the forefront of HIV/AIDS research since the beginning of the epidemic. His work on combination antiretroviral therapy resulted in unprecedented control of HIV, which has prolonged and improved the lives of more than 21 million patients worldwide. Dr. Ho now serves as the founding scientific director and CEO of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center at Columbia University and is leading a team of scientists to identify new therapies and interventions to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Ho is widely recognized for his contributions to medical science. President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Citizens Medal in 2001, and he was Time Magazine's 1996 Man of the Year. He has received fourteen honorary doctorates and holds numerous other awards, fellowships, and academy memberships.

In addition to Dr. Ho's scientific and medical expertise, he has a deep understanding of the research enterprise. He is not only one of the leading scientists of our time but also a talented administrator. Just as importantly, his work on HIV/AIDS gives him a unique and essential perspective on how racial bias, income inequality, public opinion, and misinformation can affect both research and the treatment of individual patients. The United States Government will benefit greatly from his leadership, as will people around

the world who will depend on future medical breakthroughs from research led and funded by NIH.

I have worked closely with Dr. Ho for years and know firsthand that he would be an invaluable and dynamic leader of NIH. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Gary Locke
Chair