



February 21, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking Member Grassley:

We are Lisa Monaco's colleagues on the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense. We write today in wholehearted and enthusiastic support of Lisa's nomination to the position of Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

The Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense (the "Commission") was established in 2014 to assess comprehensively the U.S. government's efforts to confront and address the biological threats facing our country. We all formerly served as senior-level officials – including as Governor, United States Senators, Members of the House of Representatives, Cabinet Officials, and senior officials in the Justice Department and White House – and we draw on those experiences to consider and recommend ways that our government can enhance its defenses against the threat from biological attacks and terrorism, accidental pathogen releases, and naturally-occurring pandemic diseases like COVID-19.

Lisa Monaco joined our Commission in 2018, after almost two decades of dedicated government service. Since that time, we have all come to know and respect Ms. Monaco for her wisdom and keen insights about government operations, crisis management, and national security policymaking. Drawing on her experience in the White House, the Justice Department, and Federal Bureau of Investigation, Lisa brings to her work both in-depth understanding of the Departments and agencies with biodefense responsibilities and seasoned judgment about the means and processes for improving government operations. The work of our Commission has benefited greatly from Lisa's policy expertise and analysis, her open and deliberative decision making process, and her unparalleled command of the national security challenges facing our Nation.

Besides her strengths in policymaking and analysis, Lisa is a person with tremendous qualities of character. She is highly principled and conducts herself with unwavering honesty and integrity, she has spent her career making policy and prosecutive decisions based on the interests of justice and national security without regard to personal or political considerations, she fairly and carefully weighs both sides of any issue that comes before her, and she is a team player who manages people and operations in an inclusive and collaborative manner. She is a public servant to the core, and has committed herself and her career to serving the cause of justice and the interests of the American people.

For the past two years, we have benefited from Lisa's commitment and collaboration as a member of our Commission, and we know that she will bring those same qualities to her management of the Justice Department at this critical juncture in our Nation's history. Lisa has been a true credit to our Commission, and we have absolute confidence that she will continue her public service as Deputy Attorney General with honor, dignity, and an unwavering focus on providing justice and security for our country and people. As individuals and as a Commission, we endorse Lisa's nomination without qualification, and we urge the Committee on the Judiciary and the Senate to promptly confirm her as the next Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if we can provide any further information or assistance to facilitate the confirmation of this critically important nomination. Should you have any questions, please contact Dr. Asha M. George, Executive Director of the Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense, at Asha.George@biodefensecommission.org.

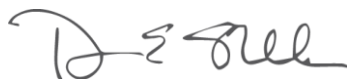
Sincerely,



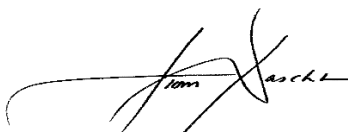
Joseph I. Lieberman
Co-Chair



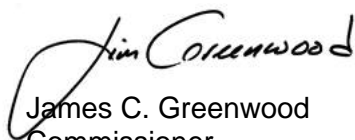
Thomas J. Ridge
Co-Chair



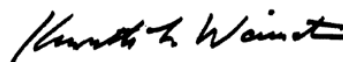
Donna E. Shalala
Commissioner



Thomas A. Daschle
Commissioner



James C. Greenwood
Commissioner



Kenneth L. Wainstein
Commissioner