



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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WILLIAM H. McBEATH, M.D., M.P.H., *Executive Director*

July 2, 1981

C. Everett Koop, MD
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Health
Department of Health and
Human Services
Humphrey Building, Room 716G
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Doctor Koop:

It was good to meet in your office this morning for an hour of discussion together. I certainly hope we work to keep open such channels of communication. Please put my number (789-5656) on your phone list and call whenever you think I or APHA might be of assistance.

It seems we have agreed to disagree on the issue of Surgeon General qualifications. APHA leadership feels strongly that the post should be filled by "a clearly qualified, specially trained, broadly experienced community health professional of demonstrated expertise and recognized ability". Of course, I did not persuade you to our view, but I do hope you are convinced that position is the true basis for our organizational opposition to your confirmation. I re-affirm that it is.

Certainly no recent Surgeon General or Assistant Secretary for Health has completely agreed with APHA on all national health policy issues, yet, that has not precluded numerous occasions of cooperative USPHS/APHA action in the interest of public health. Because you may be expectably uncertain about our organization, be assured that for as long as you continue in important policy level health positions, APHA will be eager to work with you in many areas of mutual interest and common objectives.

At a more personal level, I thank you sincerely for the warm and open way you have always related to me. I pray our disagreement will not be so disagreeable as to compromise our friendship potential.

Sincerely,

William H. McBeath, MD, MPH
Executive Director

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