

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 16, 1981

Ms. Marianne Rea-Luthin  
Citizens for Life Inc.  
313 Washington St.  
Newton, Massachusetts 02158

Dear Ms. Rea-Luthin:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the proposed nomination of Dr. C. Everett Koop as Surgeon General of the Public Health Service.

As you know, the announcement that Dr. Koop was the Administration's choice for Surgeon General has engendered considerable controversy. I share the concern of those who worry that Dr. Koop does not have the experience in the field of public health that is so essential to the duties and responsibilities of the highest health official in the United States. I am also concerned that Dr. Koop's strongly held personal views on many critical social and moral issues would be detrimental if he insists on applying those views to the development and implementations of public policy.

If the Administration forwards Dr. Koop's nomination to the Senate for confirmation, you may be assured that I intend to raise with Dr. Koop the twin issues of his lack of public health experience and the role he proposes to play in the development and implementation of public policy. I am hopeful, however, that the President will reconsider Dr. Koop's nomination and instead select an individual better prepared to be Surgeon General.

Again, thank you for taking the time to let me know your views on this topic of great concern.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on Labor  
and Human Resources