



## UNITED STATES SENATE

July 12, 2024

Dr. Kevin O'Connor  
Physician to the President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Dr. O'Connor,

I am writing today to request that you urge President Biden, in the strongest possible terms, to take a cognitive and neurological exam and to share the results with the American people. The deep public concern with President Biden's mental acuity is well known. Yesterday, in response to questions about the state of his mental fitness, President Biden said: "If my doctors tell me I should have another neurological exam, I'll do it."<sup>1</sup> It has been reported that you have "never recommended [President] Biden take a cognitive test."<sup>2</sup> You have an obligation to request that he take such an exam and share the results. Our national security, the welfare of the American people, and our country's standing in the world demands it.

My alarm about President Biden's capacity to lead our country is shared by 80% of the American public,<sup>3</sup> as well as by political leaders on both sides of the aisle. Influential members of the Democratic Party, including Governor Gretchen Whitmer<sup>4</sup> and Representative Adam Schiff<sup>5</sup> have also called on the President to take a cognitive test. Prominent physicians—including CNN Chief Medical Correspondent and neurosurgeon Dr. Sanjay Gupta—have made similar calls.<sup>6</sup> To date, at least seventeen Democratic members of Congress have urged President Biden to step down, and twelve more have expressed doubts about his viability as a candidate.<sup>7</sup>

These concerns are entirely justified in light of President Biden's recent public appearances, including his disastrous debate performance which has surely emboldened our enemies abroad as much as it has alarmed Americans at home. Concern is also justified in light of Special Counsel

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<sup>1</sup> *Biden says he would take another neurological exam amid health concerns*, NBC NEWS (July 11, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> Michael Kranish & Dan Diamond, *Is Biden fit for duty? The answer depends on little-known White House doctor*, WASHINGTON POST (July 6, 2024).

<sup>3</sup> See Damita Menezes, *80% of voter's concerned about Biden's cognitive health: DDHQ Poll*, NEWSNATION (July 8, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> Piper Hudspeth Blackburn, *Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer says 'it wouldn't hurt' for Biden to take cognitive test*, CNN (July 10, 2024).

<sup>5</sup> Sarah Fortinsky, *Schiff says both Biden and Trump should be willing to take cognitive tests*, THE HILL (July 7, 2024).

<sup>6</sup> Sanjay Gupta, *It's time for President Biden to undergo detailed cognitive and neurological testing and share his results*, CNN (July 5, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> Stephanie Stamm & James Benedict, *These Are the Democrats Who Have Called for Biden to Drop Out*, WALL STREET JOURNAL (July 11, 2024).

Hur's shocking report earlier this year which concluded that criminal charges against President Biden for mishandling highly classified information were not warranted, in part, because a jury would perceive him as an "elderly man with a poor memory."<sup>8</sup>

The American people deserve to know if their President is fit to be the Commander in Chief, and there is every reason to believe that the President and his Administration have not been forthcoming on this issue. The threats to the United States are at an all-time high, red lights are blinking everywhere, and America cannot afford weak leadership.

I request that you urge President Biden to take a cognitive and neurological exam promptly and to share the results with the American people.

Sincerely,



Lindsey O. Graham

United States Senator

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<sup>8</sup> Special Counsel Robert K. Hur, *Report on the Investigation Into Unauthorized Removal, Retention, and disclosure of Classified Documents Discovered at Locations Including the Penn Biden Center and the Delaware Private Residence of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.*, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Feb. 8, 2024).