March 2, 2020 Eric Babson babson@math.ucdavis.edu 1094 Cragmont Avenue Berkeley CA, 94708

## Dear Senator Harris:

I am concerned about coronavirus. This administration cut back the CDC pandemic response system and eliminated the associated czar making clear both a reckless focus on erasing the Obama Presidency and on loyalty over competence. To maintain public health and avoid panic an independent expert is needed to coordinate the response but instead Vice President Pence was tapped and immediately muzzled those scientists who remain at CDC while floating the approach of tax cuts. This man created a resurgence of HIV as Governor of Indiana by rejecting needle exchanges in favor of prayer alone. Already the US has botched initial testing leaving us in the dark as the disease spreads and the government flails. I worry that many more will die as religious and political whim supplant science.

Please assure me that congress will ensure an open coordinated response.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our medical leadership.

Sincerely, Eric Babson