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**STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY ON SURGEON GENERAL  
NOMINATION**

WASHINGTON, D.C— Today, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee released the following statement in response to the nomination of Dr. James Holsinger for Surgeon General.

"America faces major public health challenges -- TB, health disparities, the growing crisis of obesity, and many more. The nation needs a Surgeon General who can bring people together to meet these critical challenges. I am disappointed that the Administration looked past the many talented physicians who have a record of bringing people together and instead chose an individual whose record appears to guarantee a polarizing and divisive nomination process.

Our Committee has the responsibility to assess whether Dr. Holsinger can serve effectively as Surgeon General for all Americans, and we will hold a hearing in the coming weeks to determine whether to recommend that the Senate approve or reject his nomination."

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