

August 2, 2021

Dear St. Louis County Council Members,

As physicians who have continued to show up for our patients and your constituents during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are writing to convey our deep disappointment in the events that took place at the St. Louis County Council meeting July 27th, 2021. We stand in full support of our colleague Dr. Faisal Khan and are appalled at the disrespect that this council allowed.

The pandemic has been difficult for so many, but for health care workers and the public health experts that are on the front lines constantly reevaluating the data and making the difficult decisions on how to best keep our families, friends, and community safe, it has also become dangerous. Dr. Khan is an EXPERT, and in sharing the gift of his knowledge and experience with you, he was verbally and physically attacked, becoming yet another unfortunate pawn in what has become a political, not a public, health fight.

We call on the St. Louis County Council members to deescalate rhetoric and move to protect and support the Department of Public health leaders and staff. These tactics are not unique to St. Louis county, but they can stop with you. Public health officials throughout the U.S. have faced threats and harassment and many have left the field as a consequence ([Public Health Officials Face Wave Of Threats, Pressure Amid Coronavirus Response | Kaiser Health News \(khn.org\)](#)). The County Council and leadership have the ability to reduce threats by condemning the actions of some on July 27, 2021.

The Council must take clear action to condemn what has already transpired and to prevent further disintegration of the trusted space that both elected officials and health care providers have the honor of sharing. We are grateful for Dr. Khan's leadership and commitment and saddened by the reality that engaging in scientific dialogue has made him a target. We implore you to investigate every threat of violence and every racist or xenophobic slur our public health servants face in the tireless execution of their jobs.

We appreciate your attention to this exceedingly important issue.

Sincerely,

Eva M. Aagaard, MD
Philip Abraham, MD
Fadee Abualrub, MD
Foluso Ademuyiwa, MD MPH MSCI
Shannon C. Agner, MD, PhD
Tabassum Ahmad MD
Saima Ahmad, MD
Fahd Ahmad, MD, MSCI
Neha Akkad, MD
Najat Al-Sherri, MD
Duha Al-Zubeidi, MD

Samer Alkaade, MD
M. Allison Ogden, MD
Osama Altayar, MD
Jane Alyce Hunt, MD
Surachai Amornswadwattana, MD
Jagruti Anadkat, MD
Siri Ancha, MD
Bjorn Anderson, MD
Charmaine Ansari, MD
Olivia Aranha, MD PhD
Jordan Atkins MD, MPHS

Sarah AuBuchon, MD
Karen Austin, MD
Sara M. Ayers, MD
Naazia Azhar, MD
Tahreem Aziz, DO
Hilary Babcock, MD, MPH
Ramya Baddigam, MD
Maria Q Baggstrom, MD FACP
Thomas C. Bailey, MD
Erin Bakanas, MD, HMDC
Elise Bardawil, MD
Kevin Barton, MD
Kevin Baszis, MD
Maria S. Baszis, MD
Marie Batty, MD
Kevin T. Bauerle MD, PhD
Jessica D. Bauerle, MD
Erin Baum, MD
Margaret Baum, MD
Natalie Baumann MD
Christie A Bayer, MD, FAAP
Shannon Beermann, MD
Shaila Bellard, MD
Daniel Berg, MD, MPH
Laura Bergin, MD
Rachel Berkovich, MD
Amber Bernhardt, MD
Faiza Bhatti, MD
Jennifer Bickhaus, MD
Elisa Birnbaum, MD
Monica Bishop, MD
Elizabeth Blaney, MD
Katherine H. Bligard, MD, MA
Gregory W. Bligard, MD, PhD
Sydney Blount, MD
Thomas Blount, MD
Marie Bosch, MD, PhD
Joseph P. Bradley, MD, FACS
Colleen Braun, DO
Amelia Bray-Aschenbrenner, MD
Kelleigh Briden, MD
Angela L. Brown, MD
Shaina F. Bruce, MD
Monique Bruinsma, MD MS

Jennifer Brunworth MD
Louis Brunworth MD
Erica Buchalter, MD
Arianna Buckley, MD
Sarah Buday, Ph.D.
Tara Budetti, MD
Shelley Burge, MD, MEd
Lucia Goodwin Burgess, MD
Broc A. Burke, MD, PhD
Christa Burke, LCSW
Brendon Burke, MD
Kylie M. Bushroe, MD
Alicia Busso, MD
Derek E. Byers, MD, PhD
Meredith S. Byers, M.D.
Charles Caffrey, MD
Nandini Calamur, MD
Archna Calfee, MD
Kim A. Carmichael, MD, FACP
Ebony Carter, MD, MPH
Erin Casey MD
Devin Cash, MD, PhD
Amanda Cashen, MD
Sonia Chacko, MD
Murali Chakinala, MD
Cosette Champion, MD
Alpana Chandra, MD
Dennis Chang, MD
Rida Chaudhry MD
Sadaf S. Chaudhry MD
Miguel A. Chavez MD, MSc
Lakshmi Ramya Chelapareddy, MBBS
Collin Chen, MD
Christine Chen, MD
Rebecca Chen, MD
Joseph Cherabie, MD MSc
Stephen Chi, MD
Katherine Childress, MD
Katherine Childress, MD
Jon Chiles, MD
Ramya Chinnasamy, MD
Bhavana Choudhary, MD
Amanda Chu, MD
Thomas Ciesielski, MD

Abbye Clark, MD
Katherine Clifton, MD
Lindsay Clukies, MD
Rachel Cohen, MD MSc
Meisha Colletti, MD
Lora Collier, MD
Megan Cooper, MD, PhD
Shyna Cornell, MD
Adam Cox, MD
Katy Cox, MD
John J. Cras, MD
Sharon Cresci, MD
Misty Crider Day, MD
Lara W. Crock, MD PhD MSCI
Paulina Cruz Bravo, MD
Kristen Cundiff, MD
Kristin Cundiff, MD
Christopher Cundiff, MD
Kelly Currie, MD
Amy E. Cyr, MD
Aarti Dalal, DO
Preeti Dalawari, MD, MSPH
Rajan P. Dang
Edward Daniel, MD, PhD
Maria Dans, MD
Anthony Dao, MD
Natasha Fein Davis, MD
Brian Day, MD, PhD
Kevin deHaan, MD
Angeline DeiSanti, MD
David Dempsher, MD
Leanne DePalma, MD
Amber Deptola, MD, FACP
Nicole Deptula MD
Sid Devarakonda, MD
Rachel Dickerson, MD
Shelby Dickison, MD
John F. DiPersio, MD, PhD
Katherine Dittman, DO
Avi Dobrusin, MD
Michael Dombrowski, MD
Julianne Donnelly, MD
Colleen Donovan MD
Matthew Dougherty, MD

Sheila E. Drnec, MS, DO
Julie Drobish, MD
Umber Dube, MD, PhD
Amanda R. Dube, MD
Jennifer M. Dunn, MD
Michael J. Durkin MD MPH
Lauren East, MD
Adam Eaton, MD
Evelynn Eckert, DO
David Eisenberg, MD, MPH, FACOG
Alysa Ellis, MD
Gerome Escota, MD
Tara Evans, MD
Timothy Evans, MD
Elyse Everett, MD
Bryan Faller, MD
Rania Farhat, MD
Nyssa Farrell, MD
Todd Fehniger, MD, PhD
Kora Felsch, MD
Emily F. Fishman, MD, MSCI
Brian M. Fishman, DO, MS
Michael Forsberg, MD
Mary E. Fournier, MD, MPH
Victoria Fraser, MD
Emily Freeman, DO
Anu French, MD
Lisa de las Fuentes, MD, MS
Steve Fuest, MD
Dana Galbraith, MD
Sumanth Gandra MD, MPH
Mia Ganninger, MD
Caryn Garriga, MD
Sarah Garwood MD
Elvin H. Geng, MD, MPH
Ige A. George MD MS
Alvin George, MD
Rafif Ghadban, MD
Chiara Ghetti, MD, MSc
Katie Gholson, MSW
Bria Giacomino, DO
Malika Gill, MD
Margo Girardi, MD
Tracey L. Godbold, MD

Michelle Goetz, DO, FACOI
Jessica Gold, MD MS
Anne Carol Goldberg, MD
Parul Gor, MD
Shreya Goswami, MD
Jonah M. Graves, MD
M. Rosanna Gray-Swain, MD, FACOG
Salina Green, MD
Lauren Gregory, MD
Georgeann Groh, MD
Georgeann Groh, MD
Jesse Groh, MD
Lucas Gu, DO
Katharine Gurba, MD, PhD
Dawn Hagan, MD
Carah Hahs, MD
Bruce L Hall, MD, PhD, MBA
Gmerice Hammond, MD MPH
Stephanie Hampel, LCSW
Rachel Han, MD
Jonathan C Hanson, ANP-BC
Janice L. Hanson, PhD, EdS, MH
Elizabeth Harrison, MD
Mohit Harsh, MD
Sabika Hassan, MD
Mallory Hawksworth, MD
Krysta Heath, MD
Steven Hedgecorth, DO
Amanda Heidemann MD
Jennifer Heithaus, MD
Katherine Henderson, MD
Mia Henderson, MD, PhD
Jeffrey Henderson, MD, PhD
Kara Hennelly, MD
MaryJo Hernandez, MD
Cynthia Herrick, MD, MPH
Jennifer B. Hillman, MD
Rose Hiner, MD
Angela C Hirbe, MD, PhD
Erik R Hoefgen, MD
Holly R Hoefgen, MD
Mackenzie Hofford, MD
Caroline Holleck Kahle, MD
Millicent Horn, MD

Thomas Hoyt, MD
Kevin Hsueh, MD
Jiaxin Huang, MD
Mustafa Husaini, MD
Molly Huston, MD
Bridget C. Huysman, MD, MPH
Joseph Ippolito MD, PhD
Rubab Jafri, MD
Nida Jamal, MD
Adria Jerkovich, MD
Xuntian Jiang, PhD
Sharon Jick, MD
Jesus Jimenez, MD, PhD
Shannon JOerger, MD
Will Johansen, MD
Heather A. Jones, MD
Kai Jones, MD
Heather Joyce, MD
Karen E. Joynt Maddox, MD MPH
Joseph Kahn, MD
Pamela Kane, MD
Patrick Kane, MD
Carol M Kao, MD
Aman Kataria, MD
Andrew M Kates, MD
Jennifer Kaufman, MD
Sweta Kavali, MD
Pavan Kavli, MD
Karla Keaney, MD
Brian A. Kelly, MD
Jeannie C. Kelly, MD, MS
Melanie Kennedy, MD
Jason Keune, MD, MBA
Dineo Khabele, MD
Kirin Khan, MD
Alexandra Khodadadi MD, MSPH
Alfred H.J. Kim, MD, PhD
Ellen Kim, MD
Erin King, MD
Wilson King, MD
Marta King, MD, MEd
Maleewan Kitcharoensakkul, MD, MSCI
Cristine Klatt-Cromwell, MD
Brendan Knapp, MD

Carolyn Koenig, MD
Nikoleta S. Kolovos, MD
Carole Kounga, MD PharmD
Valerie Kover, MD
Katherine L. Kreusser, MD
Ashley K Krull, CPNP
Denise H. Kung, MD, MBA
Lindsay Kuroki, MD, MSCI
Howard Kurz, MD, MSE
Lauren Kus, MD
Abby Kushnir, MD
Julia Lagow, DO
Liling Lai, MD
Fatima Lakhani, MD
Sara Lander, MD
Jennifer LaPlante, MD, PhD, FACS
Gina LaRossa, MD
Kathryn Law, MD
Steve Lawrence, MD, MSc
Caroline K. Lee, MD
Eileen Lee, MD
Ryan Lee, MD
Kathryn Leonard, MD
Han Li, MD
Stephanie Liebmann, MD
Judith Lieu, MD, MSPH
Roberta Lima, MD
Angela Lin, MD
Kathryn Lindley, MD
Anabeth Liu, MD
Dianna Liu, MD
Sarah LoCoco, MD
Irfan Lodhi, PhD
Francis Loh, MD
Alexa Loncharich, MD
Zachary Lonjers, MD
Sarah Lord, MD
Annemarie Loth, MD
Jerry Lowder, MD, MSc
Kathleen Lowe, MD
Brendan P. Lucey, MD, MSCI
Matthew Lui, MD
Herman Luther, MD, MBA
Janki Luther, MD, MPH

Maureen Lyons, MD
Patrick Lyons, MD, MSc
Ningning Ma, MD
Zainab Mahmoud MD
Elaine Majerus, MD PhD
Nisha Mangalat, MD
Shaheen Mansoor, MD, MBA
Jeffrey Marinshaw, MD
Laura Marks, MD PhD
Elizabeth Marsicano MD
Tonya Martin-Dunlap, MD
Nathan Martin, MD
Anita Mathew, MD
Caline Mattar, MD
Kara Mayes, MD
Margaret McCarthy, MD
Kelly McDermott, MD
Peter McDonnell, MD
Cheryl McDonough, MD
Colleen McEvoy, MD
Jasmin McGinty, MD
Ryan McGuire, MD
Melanie McKean, DO, PhD
James McMenimen, MD
Colleen McNicholas, DO, MSCI
Leslie Fogel, MD, PhD
Jerry Fong, MD, PhD
Kathleen Meacham, MD, PhD
Christina Meddows-Jackson, MD
Neha Mehta-Shah, MD, MSCI
Manuela Mejia, MD
Joshua Mendoza, MD
Kristen Mennemeier, MD
Shilpa Menolascino, MD
Sambul Meraj, MD
Adam Merando, MD
Sarah Mermelstein, MD
Andrew Michelson, MD
Jenny Miele, MD
Amy E Miller, MD
Donna Miller, MD
Anna N. Miller, MD
Carrie Mintz, MD
Aaloke Mody, MD

Jeremy Moll, MD
Catherine R. Moore, DO
Lauren Rogowski Moran, MD
Heather Morgan, DO
Zachary Morgan, MD
Aubrey R Morrison MD, MACP
Hayley Motowski, MD
Monalisa Mullick, MD
Saulat Mushtaq, MD
Terence M. Myckatyn, MD, FACS, FRCSC
Tasnim Najaf, MD
Arjun Natarajan, MBBS
Sameera Natarajan, MBBS
Puja Natesan, MD, MPH
Nathan Neilson, MD
Molly Nelsen, DO
Sarah Newland
Jason Newland, MD, M.Ed.
Angela Nguyen, MD
Nguyet Nguyen, MD
Ellen Nicastro, MD
Joan Niehoff, MD
Julie Nogee, MD
Karen Norton, MD
Lauren O'Grady, MD
Anthony Odibo, MD
Devin Odom, MD
Elizabeth Odom, MD
Stephen Oh, MD, PhD
Hilary Olowski, MD
Kenan Omurtag, MD
Marisa Omurtag, MD
Michelle Ong, MD
Rachel Orcheln, MD
Erin Orf, MD
Bradley W. Ornstein, MD
Rachel C. Orscheln, MD
Blessing Osondu, MD
Lekha Pandya, MD
Saif Paracha, MD
Solomon Park, MD, MPH
Tej Patel, MD
Jay Patel, MD
Renuka Patel, MD

Urvi Patel, MD
Rina Patney, MD
Vikram Patney, MD
Jacqueline Payton, MD, PhD
Marta Perez MD
Gillian C Pet, MD MSCI
Mitchell Pet, MD
Lindsay L. Peterson, MD, MSCR
Aaron Pickrell, MD
Christie Pickrell, MD
Alex Plattner, MD, MBA
Katie Plax, MD
Cynthia Poelker, MD
Brooke Polk, MD
Brock Polnaszek, MD
Bill Powderly MD
Matthew A. Powell, MD
Jill Powell, MD
Christopher Prater, MD, MPH
Varun Puri, MD
Jenna Michaels Putzel, MD, MPH
Nishath Quader, MD
Patricia Quinley, MD
Todd Rackohn, MD
Nandini Raghuraman MD MS
Farheen Raja, MD
Furqan Raja, MD
Rekha Ramanuja, MD
Roxane Rampersad, MD
David P. Rasche, MD
Shawn Reathaford, MD
Dominic Reeds MD
Susan Reeds, MD, FACP
Melissa A. Reimers, MD
Hilary Reno, MD, PhD
Julie Rhee, MD
Noor Riaz, MD, MPH
Michael W. Rich, MD
Amy E. Riek, MD, MSCI
Heide Rodgers, MD
Cynthia Rogers, MD
Sarah J. Rollin, MD
Joanie Rosebaum, MD
Diane Rosen, DO

Anna Roshal, MD
Ilana Rosman, MD
Will Ross, MD, MPH
Molly Rozier Chen, MD
Sharman Russell, MD
Lisa Ryan, MD, PhD
Sana Saif Ur Rehman, MD
Virender Saini, MD
Sindhura Saini, MD
Pascale Salem, MD
Maanasi Samant, MD
Rebecca Same, MD
Siresha Samudrala MD
Gretchen Sander, MD
Vetta L Sanders Thompson, PhD, MA
Heidi Sandige, MD
Kristen Sanfilippo, MD, MPH
Leena Sastry, MD
Jack El Sawda, MD
Kim E. Schamel, MD
Gillian Schivone MD, MS
Laura Schuettpelz, MD, PhD
Jerod Sears, MD
John M. See, MD
Tana Settle, MD
Anne Seyer, MD
Janaki Shah, MD
Snehal Shah, MD
Preet Shaikh, MD
Rachel Shakofsky, MD
Julie Shapiro-Schere, DO
Quratulanne Sheheryar, MD
Karna Sherwood MD
Anup Shetty, MD
Priya Shetty, MD
Adrien Shifren, MD
Corey Shy, MD
Manjaap Sidhu, MD
Alex Sievert, MD
Amanda Sileo, DO
Matthew Silveira, MD
Inderjit Singh, MD
Toniya Singh, MD
Kelsey Sisti, MD

Carolyn Smith, MD
David Sonderman, MD
Wilbur Song, MD PhD
Anshu Sood, MD
Swati Sood, MD
Jennifer Sprague, MD, PhD
Mythili Srinivasan MD, PhD
Holly L. Steiner MD
Kara Sternhell-Blackwell, MD
Benjamin Stivers, MD
Eric A. Strand, MD
Lulu Sun, MD, PhD
Christian Sutter, MD
Stuart Sweet, MD, PhD
Aline Tanios, MD
Heidi Tastet, MD, MPH
Kristen Terril, MD
Sydney Thayer, MD
Mark Thoelke MD
Amy E Thomas, MD
Alex Thomas, MD
Laura Thompson, MD
Keniesha Thompson, MD, MS, FACP, FHM
Garry S. Tobin, MD
Michael D. Toboni, MD, MPH
Anand Upadhyaya, MD
Fumihiko Urano, MD, PhD
Anjani Urban, MD
Lauren Van Buren, MD
John Vandover, MD
Elizabeth Verna, DO
Josie Vitale, MD
Mimi Vo, MD
Thanh-Mai Vo, MD
Thanh Vo, MD
Alyssa Wait, MD
Colleen M. Wallace, MD
Lawrence Wang, MD, PhD
Saiana Waqar, MD
David K. Warren, MD, MPH
Madison Weg, MD
Judith Weisenberg, MD
Mattie M. White, MD
Brandon White, MD

Halana Whitehead, MD
Melissa Whitson, DO
Sarah Whittaker, MD
Keith Wickenhauser, MD
Kerry Will, MD
Denise Willers, MD
Dominique Williams, MD
Kelley Williams, MD
Susan Wiltrakis, MD
Samuel Windham, MD, MS
Chad Witt, MD
Jonathan D. Wolfe, MD
Natasha K. Wolfe, MD

Latoya Woods, DNP, FNP-C
Megan E. Wren, MD, FACP
Hayley Wurzel, MD
Susan Yang, MD
Joanna Yang, MD MPH
Christine C. Yokoyama MD, PhD
Staci Young, MD
Shannon Zalewski, MD
Rong Mei Zhang, MD
Diana Zhao, MD, PhD
Daisy Zhou, MD
Amy Zhou, MD
Maria Zulfiqar, MD