

October 13th, 2024

As nurses, doctors, and healthcare providers, we rely on data and facts – and here’s what we know to be true: Vice President Kamala Harris has released a credible, transparent update on her health and medical history, and Donald Trump has not.

On August 20, Donald Trump said he would “very gladly” release his medical records. In the 55 days since, he has yet to do so. With no recent disclosure of health information from Donald Trump, we are left to extrapolate from public appearances. And on that front, Trump is falling concerningly short of any standard of fitness for office and displaying alarming characteristics of declining acuity.

Donald Trump is nearly 80 years old. While many older adults are highly functional, age can also come with cognitive changes that affect our ability to function well in complex settings. We are seeing that from Trump, as he uses his rallies and appearances to ramble, meander, and crudely lash out at his many perceived grievances. He also is notably refusing to give the public the ability to properly vet or scrutinize his capacities. Just last week, he backed out of an interview with 60 Minutes, and he is refusing to debate Vice President Harris again – both venues where the country might be able to more adequately assess his demeanor and fitness. As we saw in the first presidential debate, Trump is displaying irrationality and irritability. Notably, he ranted about migrants eating people’s cats and dogs. This was widely debunked as untrue. In the limited opportunities we can examine his behavior, he’s providing a deeply concerning snapshot. Given his advancing age – if elected again, he would be the oldest president in history by the end of his term – his refusal to disclose even basic health information is a disservice to the American people.

The American people deserve to have confidence in their elected officials’ mental and physical capacity to do the jobs they’ve elected them to do. Trump ought to be going above and beyond to provide transparency on his physical health and mental acuity, given his advancing age. In 2008, that is exactly what Senator John McCain did. Trump should be living up to that model.

The stakes of this election are historically high. Vice President Harris and her campaign have provided the transparency that we should expect from our leaders and confirmed her wellbeing and fitness to serve. Voters deserve to know that Trump is up to the job. **That's why we are asking Donald Trump to release his medical records, just as Harris has done.**

Signed,

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