

December 10, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
HELP Committee Chair
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
HELP Committee Ranking Member
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Burr:

On behalf of the physicians and medical students represented by the combined memberships of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Physicians, we write in support of Dr. Robert Califf's nomination as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Califf is an experienced public health leader with a distinguished career in medicine and research whose previous service at the FDA make him well-qualified to lead the agency. We urge you and your respective caucuses to vote to confirm Dr. Califf without delay.

The members of our organizations provide care to our nation's children, adults, and elderly for a full range of physical, mental and substance use conditions. Each day, our physician members provide health care to patients in communities large and small, urban and rural, rich and poor, and experience firsthand the role that FDA plays in improving the health of the nation. Our members and their patients are impacted each day by products regulated by the agency, including drugs, vaccines, medical and surgical devices, infant formula, food, dietary supplements, cosmetics, and tobacco products. As such, FDA plays a key role in protecting Americans from dangers like food-borne illness, opioid addiction, cigarettes and e-cigarettes, and unsafe medical products and dietary supplements.

Our organizations worked with Dr. Califf during his previous tenure as FDA Commissioner and are confident that he is well suited to respond to the urgent public health needs of today by ensuring the safety, efficacy and of drugs, biological products, and medical devices while also spurring needed innovation. As we come upon the two-year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is crucial that permanent leadership is installed at FDA as soon as possible. Dr. Califf's institutional knowledge and clinical expertise will allow him to immediately address current public health threats and strengthen the agency to respond to future needs.

We stand ready to work with Dr. Califf to ensure Americans have access to safe and effective products. We urge you to immediately confirm Dr. Robert Califf as FDA Commissioner.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Physicians