

Senator Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
SH-322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
SR-317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray
Chair
Senate HELP Committee
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
United States Senate
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

December 1, 2021

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Senator Patty Murray and Senator Richard Burr,

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of patients, advocates, caregivers, and health care providers would like to affirm our support for President Biden's nomination of Dr. Robert Califf as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We ask that Senators in the Democratic and Republican caucuses and the Senate HELP Committee vote to confirm Dr. Califf.

The United States is at a pivotal moment in terms of public health. The FDA and patients need the leadership that Dr. Califf will bring as soon as possible and has already proven he can provide to the Agency.

Dr. Robert Califf, President Biden's nominee for FDA Commissioner, is not only well qualified, but has received broad support from both sides of the aisle. As you know, he has already served as FDA Commissioner in 2016 and inspired confidence and praise during his tenure.

We believe Dr. Califf will bring the leadership necessary to the FDA and continue assuring the safety, efficacy and security of treatments while also helping to speed innovation in a new international age for patient safety and public health. With the pandemic still raging, continuation of the FDA COVID-19 response is essential. The next commissioner will have to balance that unprecedented task with a myriad of other priorities, including the reauthorization of the user fee programs, developing a framework for appropriate oversight of tobacco and diagnostic tests and development of post-market data to monitor use of medical products. This task will require a seasoned administrator with knowledge of the agency, which Dr. Califf has.

Dr. Califf brings decades of experience as a world recognized leader in cardiovascular medicine. His in-depth work in clinical research and health outcomes research brings lived experience to the agency that will deeply inform his work. This is a challenging time for the FDA, with many complex and crucial projects under way. We need to confirm a new FDA Commissioner without delay. Dr. Califf has shown that he is a seasoned leader who through his previous professional experience is uniquely positioned to hit the ground running.

We know that Dr. Califf can maximize effectiveness for patients through the FDA. The FDA needs a strong commissioner with broad support at such a pivotal time and we believe that Dr. Califf's return to the Agency will provide that leadership. Congress must ensure that FDA continues its important mission to provide patients with safe and effective treatments. We ask the Senate to do what is right by patients and immediately confirm Dr. Robert Califf as FDA commissioner.

Sincerely,

AliveAndKickn
Alliance for Aging Research
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Barth Syndrome Foundation
Black Women's Health Imperative
CARES Foundation
COPD Foundation
CureSHANK
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation.
Dup15q Alliance
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance
Friends of Cancer Research
Genetic Alliance
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Grandparents in Action
Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
Infusion Access Foundation
International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation
International WAGR Syndrome Association
JDRF
LUNGeivity Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Melanoma Research Alliance
Men's Health Network
MLD Foundation
MRSA Survivors Network
National Consumers League
National Infusion Center Association
NBIA Disorders Association
NTM Info & Research
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Phelan-McDermid Syndrome Foundation
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prostate Cancer Foundation

Research!America
SADS Foundation
Solving Kids' Cancer
Susan G. Komen
SYNGAP1 Foundation
The American Heart Association
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
U.S. Pain Foundation
US Against Alzheimers