

Senator Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate HELP Committee
SD-428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6300

Senator Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
SD-428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6300

October 29, 2015

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of patients, advocates, caregivers and health care providers would like to enthusiastically endorse President Obama's nomination of Dr. Robert Califf as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We ask that the Senate take immediate action to confirm Dr. Califf.

The United States is at a pivotal moment in terms of public health, and the leadership that Dr. Califf will bring to the FDA will be paramount to assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human drugs, and helping to speed innovations that make medicines more effective, safer, and more affordable.

Dr. Califf's career has focused on vital issues that directly impact patients' lives. As Vice Chancellor of Clinical and Translational Research at Duke University, Dr. Califf led numerous landmark clinical studies. He became a nationally and internationally recognized expert in cardiovascular medicine, health outcomes research, health care quality, and clinical research. He is one of the nation's leaders in the growing field of translational research – key to making sure advances in science translate into medical care.

Dr. Califf also has had vast experience working with FDA. Prior to his appointment to Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco, he served as a member of the FDA Cardiorenal Advisory Panel and FDA Science Board's Subcommittee on Science and Technology. His prior work with the agency will prove invaluable and beneficial.

We believe that with Dr. Califf's diverse background, and his exemplary knowledge of clinical and translational medicine, he will continue to improve the FDA's drug approval process while ensuring that patients are receiving the safest and most effective treatments as quickly as possible. We urge his immediate confirmation.

Sincerely,

Action to Cure Kidney Cancer (ACKC)
Addario Lung Cancer Medical Institute (ALCMI)
Alliance for Aging Research
The ALS Association
Alpha-1 Foundation
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI)
Bert's Big Adventure
Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation
Cancer Support Community
CancerCare
Center for Medical Technology Policy
CEO Roundtable on Cancer
Chase After a Cure
Childhood Cancer Guides
COPD Foundation
DC Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation
Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG)
Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE)
FasterCures
Fight Colorectal Cancer

Friends of Cancer Research
Grandparents In Action
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Institute of Catholic Bioethics
JDRF
Kids v. Cancer
Lung Cancer Alliance
LUNGevity
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association
Martin Truex Jr. Foundation
Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation
Men's Health Network
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Brain Tumor Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Oncology Nursing Society
Pac2
Personalized Medicine Coalition
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR)
Solving Kids' Cancer
Sophia's Fund
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Stand Up To Cancer
The Swifty Foundation