

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Education, Labor & Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health,
Labor and Pensions
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

February 14, 2022

RE: Confirmation of Dr. Robert Califf as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration

On behalf of pharmacists across the country who are on the frontlines during the pandemic, relying on FDA-regulated products for patient care, we strongly support the urgent confirmation of Dr. Robert Califf as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Collectively, our organizations represent the community of pharmacists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, educators, state officials, and others providing care and support in our nation's health care system.

FDA desperately needs a permanent leader. The pandemic continues to plague our country and Dr. Califf's commitment to science-based decisions make him uniquely qualified to lead the FDA during this critical time. Because of Dr. Califf's previous tenure at FDA, he has the knowledge, experience, and understanding of the job ahead of him, enabling him to make a difference on day one. This is critical because we have seen the trajectory of COVID-19 across the country transform and change course in short time frames. Dr. Califf's thoughtful, analytical approaches and resolute leadership can guide FDA as these new challenges emerge.

Although FDA career staff have done a remarkable job reviewing and adapting tools, policies, and resources to evaluate the safety, efficacy, and quality of regulated products, a commissioner who has the support of Congress will help the agency as it looks towards the future. A future that is better prepared for the next emergency. These conversations are happening now in Congress and policy arenas across the country. FDA must have a strong, respected leader, such as Dr. Califf, advocating for tools and authorities to be prepared for the next public health emergency and lead us out of the current pandemic.

Pharmacists are one of the most trusted professionals in the US. We are committed to our patients. We appreciate Dr. Califf's commitment to patients as well, as a respected cardiologist, professor, and researcher. The pharmacy community looks forward to continuing to work closely with the FDA under his leadership to ensure the safety, efficacy, and security of our patients' medications.

We urge the Senate to confirm Dr. Califf and bring strong leadership and stability to FDA.

Respectfully,

Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Apothecaries
American College of Clinical Pharmacy
American Pharmacists Association
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy
National Association of Specialty Pharmacy
National Community Pharmacists Association
Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists