

January 22, 2019

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy,

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of American patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, and researchers write to raise alarm at the continued government shutdown – particularly its impact on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The work of the FDA to protect the health and wellbeing of our nation cannot be overstated. The agency regulates one quarter of the U.S. economy, ensures a safe food supply, protects patients from contaminated and unsafe medical products and, importantly, is the catalyst for expediting lifesaving therapies to patients.

On behalf of patients across this country, we are greatly concerned that the agency is currently not fully funded, and thousands of vital FDA employees are not working or able to operate at full capacity. While we applaud Commissioner Gottlieb, FDA leadership, and “essential staff” for truly heroic work to keep many aspects of its mission functioning, we fear that this continued shutdown not only puts the current health and safety of Americans at risk, but has begun to put future scientific discovery and innovation in jeopardy.

The ongoing government shutdown forces the FDA to make difficult choices regarding to which essential functions its greatly reduced resources are directed. These are decisions that never should have to be made—the health and safety of Americans today should never be weighed against the prospect of new life-saving therapies for patients. Tragically, that is what is happening.

We ask that the President and Congress act immediately to bring the FDA back to its full capacity. Americans’ health and patients’ futures are at stake.

Sincerely,

Acromegaly Community  
Addario Lung Cancer Medical Institute  
AIM at Melanoma  
AliveAndKickn  
Alliance for Aging Research  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Dermatology Association  
American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)  
American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy  
Annie Appleseed Project  
Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI)  
Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)  
Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation  
Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation  
Cancer Support Community  
CancerCare  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowerment (FORCE)  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
Friends of Cancer Research  
Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Foundation  
Institute of Clinical Bioethics, Saint Joseph's University  
Kidney Cancer Action Network (KCAN)  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Living Beyond Breast Cancer  
Lung Cancer Alliance  
LUNgevity Foundation  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc  
Lymphoma Research Foundation  
Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF)  
Men's Health Network  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship (NCCS)  
National Consumers League  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Diseases (NORD)  
National Osteoporosis Foundation  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
The Nicholas Conor Institute for Pediatric Cancer Research  
NTM Info & Research, Inc.  
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance  
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

Patients for Affordable Drugs  
Personalized Medicine Coalition  
PHASE ONE Foundation  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Research Advocacy Network  
Research!America  
Solving Kids' Cancer  
St. Baldrick's Foundation  
Stand Up To Cancer  
Swiftly Foundation