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RESEARCH

November 18, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

We are writing to thank you for convening Tuesday's hearing to consider the nomination of Robert Califf, M.D. to be the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Califf has dedicated his career to improving the care of patients in a transparent and science-based manner. We applaud the strong statements of support you both made for Dr. Califf's nomination. Given the in-depth review of Dr. Califf's record that you and your colleagues have undertaken, the broad bipartisan support evident at the hearing underscores that he is an ideal candidate to lead the agency at this important time.

With user fee negotiations underway, landmark biomedical legislation moving through Congress, and precision medicine advancing at a rapid clip, FDA needs a confirmed, permanent leader who can skillfully harness these opportunities and ensure that the agency continues to effectively achieve its mission for the American people. Dr. Califf is that leader. We urge you and your Senate colleagues to be diligent in your review of Dr. Califf's testimony, and to swiftly move his nomination through your committee and to the Senate floor for final confirmation. This will enable him to help the agency continue its powerfully important work that touches all Americans.

Respectfully,

Margaret Anderson  
Executive Director  
FasterCures, a center of  
the Milken Institute

Ellen Sigal  
Chairperson & Founder  
Friends of Cancer Research

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions