



## President Biden to Nominate Dr. Robert Califf as FDA Commissioner

**Washington, DC – November 12, 2021** – Friends of Cancer Research (*Friends*) strongly supports the nomination of Dr. Robert Califf to serve as the next Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and urges the 117th Congress to work quickly to confirm his appointment. *Friends* also applauds the incredible leadership of Dr. Janet Woodcock who, as Acting Commissioner, has led the Agency during one of the most trying and important public health moments in our Nation's history. Her leadership and decades of service at the FDA continues to drive scientific innovation and patient benefit.

Today, more than ever, the FDA requires a strong and respected leader who has a deep understanding of science, public health, and drug development. President Biden's nomination of Dr. Califf is a clear signal to career scientists at the FDA of his respect for the Agency and their work. It is also a statement to the American public that the FDA will continue to be patient-centered and driven by science and not politics.

**"Dr. Califf's commitment to science, dedication to research, and fierce advocacy for patients unequivocally makes him the right leader at this critical time,"** said Friends of Cancer Research Chair & Founder, Ellen Sigal. **"There are few individuals better positioned to continue to build confidence in the Agency, ensure science-based regulatory standards, and build a strong foundation for the future."**

Dr. Califf is currently the Donald F. Fortin, MD, Professor of Cardiology at the Duke University School of Medicine. Dr. Califf served as FDA Commissioner from 2016 – 2017 as well as Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco at the FDA from 2015 – 2016.

**"Dr. Califf is a longtime friend of Friends of Cancer Research and a great fit for the role,"** said Sigal. **"We also must give our thanks and deepest gratitude to Dr. Janet Woodcock for her service as Acting Commissioner at FDA. She has been one of our country's most innovative leaders for decades and been a true light in the storm for FDA when the country needed strong leadership at the Agency."**

Dr. Califf carries the respect of the entire Agency having served as FDA Commissioner and his many leadership roles. Dr. Califf's experience will enhance the Agency's commitment to fostering science-

driven solutions and innovations. *Friends* recognizes that the next commissioner will lead the Agency at a crucial time and looks forward to working with Dr. Califf upon his confirmation.

**About Friends of Cancer Research**

Friends of Cancer Research (*Friends*) is working to accelerate policy change, support groundbreaking science, and deliver new therapies to patients quickly and safely. We unite scientists, pharmaceutical companies, and policy makers with shared trust and guide them toward meaningful cooperation. This collaboration among partners from every healthcare sector ultimately drives advances in science, policy, and regulation that speed life-saving treatments to patients. For more information, please visit <https://friendsofcancerresearch.org/>.