

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
SR-317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Harry Reid
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
SH-522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6300

February 19, 2016

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Reid:

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of patients, advocates, caregivers and health care providers would like to reaffirm our support for President Obama's nomination of Dr. Robert Califf as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). We ask that Senators in the Democratic and Republican caucuses vote to confirm Dr. Califf.

The United States is at a pivotal moment in terms of public health. The FDA and patients need the leadership that Dr. Califf will bring as soon as possible.

Dr. Robert Califf, President Obama's nominee for FDA Commissioner, is not only well qualified, but has received broad support from both sides of the aisle. As you know, his in-depth confirmation hearing led to a unanimous vote from the Senate HELP Committee for his nomination to advance to the Senate floor.

We believe Dr. Califf will bring the paramount leadership necessary to FDA and continue assuring the safety, efficacy and security of treatments while also helping to speed innovation. Before his current position as FDA Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco, Dr. Califf was Vice Chancellor of Clinical and Translational Research at Duke University. While at Duke, he led numerous landmark, clinical studies that resulted in life-saving medical innovations. He is widely recognized as an expert in cardiovascular medicine, health outcomes research and translational research, which is key to making sure advances in science translate effectively to medical care.

Additionally, we know that Dr. Califf can maximize effectiveness for patients through the FDA. The FDA needs a strong commissioner with broad support at such a pivotal time and we believe that Dr. Califf is that strong leader. Congress must ensure that FDA continues its important mission to provide patients with safe and effective treatments. We ask the Senate to start 2016 to do what is right by patients and immediately confirm Dr. Robert Califf as FDA commissioner.

Sincerely,

Addario Lung Cancer Medical Institute
Alliance for Aging Research
Alpha-1 Foundation
The ALS Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI)
Bonnie J. Addario Lung Cancer Foundation
C-Change
CancerCare
Cancer Support Community
Center for Medical Technology Policy (CMTP)
CEO Roundtable on Cancer
Childrens Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Coalition of Cancer Cooperative Groups
COPD Foundation
Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE)
FasterCures
Fight Colorectal Cancer

Friends of Cancer Research
Grandparents in Action
Institute for Clinical Bioethics
JDRF
Kids v. Cancer
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
LUNGeity
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association
Men's Health Network
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
National Patient Advocate Foundation
The Nicholas Connor Institute
Personalized Medicine Coalition
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Society for Women's Health Research
Solving Kids' Cancer
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Stand Up To Cancer
Swiftly Foundation