



December 10, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

The American College of Cardiology (ACC), which represents more than 54,000 cardiologists and members of the entire cardiovascular care team, strongly supports the nomination of Robert Califf, MD, as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Califf is the right person to lead the FDA as Commissioner based on his impressive medical knowledge, clinical research experience, and visionary leadership abilities.

Dr. Califf has a long history with the FDA both internally and as an external advisor. This experience will enable him to quickly move forward with implementing key initiatives and advancing the agency’s mission. In his previous service as FDA Commissioner, he pursued policies to protect public health and ensure access to care. As FDA’s Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco, Dr. Califf provided expert guidance and direction on cross-cutting initiatives ranging from improvements in clinical trials, to the use of observational data within registries to improve patient access to new therapies. He has also played a critical role in ongoing discussions around precision medicine, collaborating closely with the National Institutes of Health.

Before joining the Agency, Dr. Califf frequently lent his expertise to the FDA through service on the Advisory Committee on Cardiovascular and Renal Drugs and its Science Board Working Group. He also served in several leadership positions within the Institute of Medicine (IOM), including the IOM Clinical Research Roundtable, the IOM Committee on Medication Errors and the IOM Board on Health Sciences Policy. He is also one of the foremost experts in clinical trials, with more than 1,200 peer-reviewed publications.

The College is proud to claim Dr. Califf as one of its most distinguished members. His contributions to the field of cardiology and his commitment to patient care would only be magnified should he be confirmed for another stint as Commissioner. The ACC strongly supports Dr. Califf for commissioner of the FDA.

Sincerely,

Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC
ACC President

President
Dipti Itchhaporia, MD, FACC

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Chief Executive Officer
Cathleen C. Gates

The mission of the American College of Cardiology and the American College of Cardiology Foundation is to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health.