



December 8, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

The American Pharmacists Association (APhA) strongly supports the swift confirmation of Dr. Robert Califf as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). APhA is the only organization advancing the entire pharmacy profession. Our expert staff and strong volunteer leadership, including many experienced pharmacists, allow us to deliver vital leadership to help pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, and pharmacy technicians find success and satisfaction in their work, while advocating for changes that benefit them, their patients, and their communities.

Dr. Califf's background as a cardiologist, professor of medicine at Duke University and the founder and director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute, and his commitment to patients position him well to lead the FDA in maintaining the agency's high standards for safety, efficacy, and quality. In addition, Dr. Califf's previous distinguished service as FDA Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco, and commitment to science-based decisions make him uniquely qualified to lead the FDA during this critical time. Dr. Califf's previous FDA tenure enables him to hit the ground running as the agency continues its work to address the COVID-19 pandemic and protect public health.

FDA is responsible for the oversight of more than \$2.8 trillion in consumption of food, medical products, and tobacco. Dr. Califf's steadfast leadership is needed at FDA as we come out on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic and face new challenges in the future. Dr. Califf's experience, knowledge, and understanding, not only of FDA, but also of federal regulatory and legislative processes, clinical research, and medical product development are essential to building on FDA's strengths and carrying out its public health mission.



APhA looks forward to continuing to work closely with the FDA under Dr. Califf's leadership to ensure the safety, efficacy, and security of our patients' medications and urges the Senate to confirm his nomination as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of APhA's views.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Karin Bolte, JD, Director, Health Policy at kbolte@aphanet.org.

Sincerely,

Scott Knoer, PharmD, FASHP
Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer