

CANCER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

April 25, 2017

Senator Lamar Alexander
Chairman
HELP Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patty Murray
Ranking Member
HELP Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The undersigned cancer patient, research, and provider organizations write in support of the nomination of Dr. Scott Gottlieb to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Dr. Gottlieb will bring an important combination of skills and life experience to FDA. He has medical training and clinical experience, service in important federal government positions, knowledge and background related to research and development of new therapies, and the experience of a cancer survivor.

In addition, Dr. Gottlieb conveyed during the confirmation hearing before your committee a deep commitment to public service and respect for the agency he will lead and its skilled workforce. He also indicated an appreciation for management of potential or perceived conflicts of interest and a willingness to receive additional advice on this matter.

Many of us have longstanding relationships with Dr. Gottlieb, and in that context, we have had impassioned and aggressive discussions with him on topics related to the regulatory responsibilities of FDA to make determinations that products are safe and effective as well as topics related to research and development of new therapies. We sometimes leave those discussions in disagreement with Dr. Gottlieb. We count the willingness of Dr. Gottlieb to entertain serious policy discussion and to engage with critics to be among the traits that recommend him as FDA Commissioner, a position in which he will be managing and interacting with a skilled and experienced professional staff, the industries that FDA regulates, professionals and patients who rely on FDA-approved products, and patients who want to be engaged in drug development and regulatory review activities.

We urge approval of the nomination of Dr. Gottlieb to be FDA Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Cancer Leadership Council

American Society for Radiation Oncology
CancerCare
Cancer Support Community
The Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association
Kidney Cancer Association
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lymphoma Research Foundation
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Susan G. Komen

Cc: HELP Committee Members