



**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20001-2399  
T 202 828 0400  
aamc.org

December 13, 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 Chairwoman Murray and Ranking Member Burr:

The AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) is pleased to support the nomination of Robert M. Califf, MD, as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The AAMC is a nonprofit association dedicated to transforming health through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 155 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; approximately 400 teaching hospitals and health systems, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and the millions of individuals employed across academic medicine, including more than 186,000 full-time faculty members, 94,000 medical students, 145,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

The AAMC strongly believes that Dr. Califf is uniquely qualified to lead the FDA at this critical time. The association and the nation's medical schools and teaching hospitals are proud of our work with the FDA over the years, including throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic to identify and advance safe and effective testing, therapeutics, and vaccines. As the virus continues to pose a threat across the country and around the globe, the FDA will continue to play an instrumental role in the nation's response, in addition to its other ongoing, significant work.

Dr. Califf's previous experience as FDA commissioner and as deputy commissioner of the Office of Medical Products and Tobacco will allow a seamless transition to the role and help ensure stability in the midst of the persisting public health emergency. His background as a cardiologist, vice chancellor for clinical and translational research at Duke University, director of the Duke Translational Medicine Institute, and founding director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute also offer him a multi-dimensional perspective on the broad array of stakeholders contributing to and affected by the FDA's work.

Above all else, Dr. Califf's demonstrated commitment to working for the public good is an essential asset in advancing the FDA's mission of protecting the public's health by ensuring the safety and efficacy of the products it regulates.

The AAMC is grateful for your attention and the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Dr. Califf's nomination. Please contact me or AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer Karen Fisher, JD, (kfisher@aamc.org) if you believe the AAMC can be of assistance or provide further information in the confirmation process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Skorton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David J. Skorton, M.D.  
President and CEO  
Association of American Medical Colleges