



**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
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**David J. Skorton, MD**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

February 2, 2022

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges), I write today in support of Robert Califf, MD, to be the next commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and urge you to vote to confirm Dr. Califf when the full Senate considers his nomination.

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 as the nation continues to respond to COVID-19 and looks ahead to harnessing basic research findings into novel and innovative new treatments, vaccines, diagnostics, and cures to improve the health of all Americans. Dr. Califf's previous experience as FDA commissioner, which he earned through bipartisan support in the Senate, and as deputy commissioner of the FDA's Office of Medical Products and Tobacco, will allow a seamless transition to the role and provide needed stability during the continued public health emergency. In fact, six former FDA commissioners who served in both Democratic and Republican administrations also support Dr. Califf's nomination.

Dr. Califf also has an in-depth, multidimensional perspective on the broad array of stakeholders contributing to, and affected by, the FDA's work. This stems from his direct experience in bringing life-changing innovations from bench to bedside through his visionary work in clinical and translational research leadership roles at Duke University and its School of Medicine. Knowing firsthand the passion, expertise, and critical thinking required to advance discoveries in environments where researchers and clinicians work side-by-side to improve the health of all, the AAMC believes that Dr. Califf's experience in academic medicine is a strength that makes him particularly well-suited to succeed at the FDA.

The broad oversight of the FDA, from the safety and efficacy of our food supply to pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and beyond, necessitates a confirmed commissioner to

provide enhanced stability as well as a more actionable strategic vision than someone in an acting role can provide. Furthermore, 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.

In this moment of unprecedented public health need and with the expertise, experience, and commitment to public health shown by this nominee, I urge you to support Dr. Califf's nomination to lead the FDA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David J. Skorton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David J. Skorton, MD  
President and CEO