



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

November 27, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chair  
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senators Alexander and Murray:

The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) urges the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions to favorably report out the nomination of Stephen M. Hahn, MD, to serve as Commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The AAMC is a not-for-profit association dedicated to transforming health care through innovative medical education, cutting-edge patient care, and groundbreaking medical research. Its members comprise all 154 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 51 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, and more than 80 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC serves the leaders of America's medical schools and teaching hospitals and their 173,000 faculty members, 89,000 medical students, 129,000 resident physicians, and more than 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences.

The FDA plays a pivotal role in the public health continuum by regulating products consumed by all Americans including drugs, biologics, and the nation's food supply. A permanent and skilled Commissioner is key to FDA's ability to keep up with the rapid pace of scientific progress and public health threats. The AAMC believes that Dr. Hahn's experience in research, patient care, and administration at institutions that are among the nation's foremost venues for cancer treatment and research, as well as his public service as an officer in the US Public Health Service and at the National Cancer Institute, provide invaluable qualifications to lead the FDA. He is intimately experienced with and understands the processes for discovery and refinement of new therapies, the complex environment in which medical innovation takes place, and the centrality of patients' and families' needs. As a physician scientist, Dr. Hahn is also committed to data and evidence-based analysis at all levels of medical decision making, and he has stated that he is committed to advancing evidence-based policy making at the helm of the FDA.

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The FDA has a profound influence, both immediate and lasting, in shaping the environment for public health, safety, and medical innovation. The AAMC therefore strongly believes that Dr. Hahn's experience, leadership, public service and dedication are ideal qualifications for the role of FDA Commissioner, and we hope that the Senate will move expeditiously to his confirmation. The AAMC is grateful for your attention and the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Dr. Hahn's nomination. We are also deeply grateful to Ned Sharpless, MD, and Adm. Brett Giroir, MD, for their leadership of the FDA during this process of identifying a permanent Commissioner.

Please contact me if you believe the AAMC can be of assistance or provide further information in the confirmation process.

Sincerely,

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

David J. Skorton, MD

cc: Ross McKinney, MD, Chief Scientific Officer  
Karen Fisher, JD, Chief Public Policy Officer