



1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1825
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September 22, 2015

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The Honorable Lamar Alexander
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United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Senator Murray:

On behalf of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the national medical specialty society representing more than 36,000 physicians specializing in psychiatry, we are writing to support the nomination of Robert Califf, M.D., as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

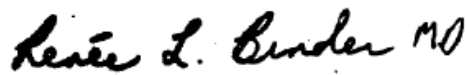
As the President's nominee, Dr. Califf brings a broad and impressive resume – from both the public and private sectors – to the Office of Commissioner. He is a recognized global leader in cardiology, clinical research, and medical economics. Most recently, as Deputy Commissioner for Medical Products and Tobacco at FDA, Dr. Califf has played a critical leadership role in providing high-level advice and policy direction and managed several cross-cutting clinical, scientific, and regulatory initiatives at FDA, including precision medicine, orphan drugs, pediatric science, and the advisory committee system. Dr. Califf previously served FDA as an independent expert on the Cardiovascular and Renal Drugs Advisory Committee from 1996 to 2000 and on FDA's Science Board Working Group from 2007 to 2008.

Dr. Califf earned his B.S. and M.D. degrees at Duke University, and became a nationally and internationally recognized expert in cardiovascular medicine, health outcomes research, health care quality, and clinical research at Duke. The strength of his leadership is exemplified by the many leadership roles he has held at the Duke University School of Medicine and the Duke University Medical Center since 1982. At the School of Medicine, he served as Vice Chancellor, Director of the Duke Translational Medicine Institute, which he founded in 2006, and as Professor of Medicine. He also served as the Director of the Cardiac Care Unit at the Medical Center. He founded the Duke University Clinical Research Institute in 2006 and served as its Director. Dr. Califf also served on the Executive Committee of the Duke Health System.

Dr. Califf has also provided exemplary service to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) through his service on a number professional organizations, including committees of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, the IOM Clinical Research Roundtable, the IOM Committee on Medication Errors, and the IOM Board on Health Sciences Policy.

Mr. Califf is the right choice to lead FDA. His impressive medical knowledge, clinical research experience, and visionary leadership abilities will help advance FDA's critical mission. APA asks for your favorable consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Renee L. Binder MD in black ink.

Renee Binder
President

Handwritten signature of Saul Levin, MD, MPA in black ink.

Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A.
CEO and Medical Director