

# 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