

CANCER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS
ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

December 2, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
HELP Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
HELP Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The undersigned cancer organizations, including patient organizations, professional societies, and research foundations, are writing to express support for the nomination of Dr. Stephen Hahn to be the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Some of us have worked with Dr. Hahn for years as a result of his volunteer leadership of cancer organizations, and others have more recently become acquainted with him. We all support him because of his focus on patients, commitment to public health, and pledge to honor science-based decision-making. His record in cancer clinical care, clinical research, and institutional leadership prepares him well to lead FDA. We are especially concerned about attracting and retaining a stellar FDA staff, and we believe that Dr. Hahn can provide leadership on FDA staffing matters.

Because of the significant responsibilities of FDA, there is never a time that the agency does not face challenges. However, the agency currently confronts an especially daunting agenda, including regulation of increasingly complex therapies, addressing the teen vaping epidemic, contributing to efforts to address the opioid epidemic, and maintaining an outstanding staff to manage these issues. We trust Dr. Hahn to lead the agency through these challenges.

Sincerely,

Cancer Leadership Council

American Society for Radiation Oncology
American Society of Clinical Oncology
CancerCare
Children's Cancer Cause
Fight Colorectal Cancer
International Myeloma Foundation
LUNgevity Foundation

Lymphoma Research Foundation
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Comprehensive Cancer Network
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Sarcoma Foundation of America
Susan G. Komen

cc: HELP Committee Members