

September 3, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. President and Secretary Azar;

The undersigned organizations representing millions of patients, advocates, caregivers, researchers, and physicians urgently write to express our support for a permanent Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to be nominated and confirmed. With the agency regulating one-quarter of the U.S. economy, including life-saving therapies, it is imperative that FDA have a permanent leader.

We would like to thank your Administration's dedication to patients and science as illustrated with the appointment of Dr. Norman E. Sharpless to serve as acting Commissioner of the FDA. We have sincere confidence that Dr. Sharpless is the best person to be nominated and confirmed as the next Commissioner.

Dr. Sharpless has been an extraordinarily strong and respected leader throughout his impressive career, including as the Director of the National Cancer Institute, Director of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, and as a practicing oncologist specializing in leukemia.

During his brief time at FDA he has continued to navigate and direct the agency in a manner that best benefits patients and is effectively executing the critical work of the agency. His presence has been a calming force, which has gained him the respect of the agency staff and those that support its mission.

We strongly urge the Administration to make Dr. Sharpless its nominee to become the permanent commissioner of the FDA. This nomination will be supported by the patient advocacy community as well as leading scientific and research institutions across the country.

Sincerely,

Acromegaly Community Inc.
Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma Research Foundation
Alliance for Aging Research
Alstrom Syndrome International
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)
American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC)
Barth Syndrome Foundation
Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation

Cancer Support Community
CancerCare
CARES Foundation
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
COPD Foundation
Cure HHT
Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation.
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
FasterCures
Fight Colorectal Cancer
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered
Friends of Cancer Research
Genetic Alliance
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
International WAGR Syndrome Association
KidneyCan
Kids V Cancer
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
LUNgevity Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Melanoma Research Alliance
Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF)
Men's Health Network
MLD Foundation
MRSA Survivors Network
National Brain Tumor Society
National Osteoporosis Foundation
National Patient Advocate Foundation
NBIA Disorders Association
NTM Info & Research
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD)
Personalized Medicine Coalition
Prevent Cancer Foundation
Prostate Cancer Foundation
PXE International
Research!America
Solving Kids' Cancer
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Stand Up To Cancer
Susan G. Komen
Team Sanfilippo Foundation
Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
United Leukodystrophy Foundation
U.S. Pain Foundation