

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