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November 18, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair, Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray,

I write in support of the nomination of Dr. Robert Califf to be commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Califf is an outstanding nominee to lead this agency so important to our health, safety, and well-being, with his expertise in and vast experience with cardiovascular medicine, health outcomes research, health care quality, and clinical research—as well as the wide respect he enjoys from the broader community.

Dr. Califf's qualifications to be commissioner of the FDA are extensive. The statistical community enthusiastically supports his nomination because he has been an outspoken advocate for the importance of sound statistical design and analysis in the health sciences. Statistical principles and methods are the foundation for the design and conduct of the clinical trials and other studies that guide regulatory policy. Because of his engagement of a statistical perspective, he is well known and respected in the biostatistics community. As deputy commissioner, he has made the growth and general health of statistical offices throughout the agency a priority, an effort already reaping benefits for the FDA.

In short, the FDA would do well with Dr. Califf as commissioner. I urge his swift confirmation for the best interests of FDA and our country's health, safety, and well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Morganstein". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David Morganstein
President, American Statistical Association