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November 18, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the [Alliance for Aging Research](http://www.agingresearch.org) (Alliance), I am pleased to offer our strong support to Dr. Stephen Hahn for his nomination to serve as Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The Alliance is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating the pace of scientific discoveries and their application to improve the experience of aging and health. For more than 30 years, the Alliance has guided efforts to substantially increase funding and focus on aging at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and FDA; built influential coalitions to guide groundbreaking regulatory improvements for age-related disease clinical development and access to care; and created award-winning, high-impact educational materials to improve the health and well-being of older adults and their family caregivers.

The Alliance is confident that Dr. Hahn possesses the qualifications that make him the right person for the esteemed role of FDA Commissioner. In his leadership roles as chief medical executive at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, chair of the Radiation Oncology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, chief of the Department of Prostate Cancer Clinic at the National Cancer Institute at the NIH, Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service, researcher—and, perhaps most importantly as a clinician—Dr. Hahn has shown outstanding dedication to improving and protecting the health of patients.

As chief medical executive at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, the largest cancer center in the U.S., Dr. Hahn oversees hundreds of clinical trials as well as clinical care for more than 141,000 patients annually. He is well-versed in, and has published on, the importance of involving representative populations, including older adults, in research studies in order to truly understand the impact of a potential drug or medical product on the primary groups likely to use the product under study. Dr. Hahn has been a vocal advocate for comparative effectiveness research, which is a top priority for the Alliance. He recognizes the

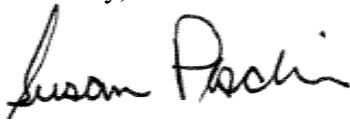
importance of identifying what treatment approach works for which patient and under what circumstances and conditions. He has additionally been outspoken with colleagues about the value of research that predicts or enhances treatment response—innovation that will significantly benefit patients and society. The Alliance is confident that given the opportunity as FDA Commissioner, Dr. Hahn will continue to advocate for and prioritize patient-centered research.

Throughout his career, Dr. Hahn has prioritized transparency in the implementation and evaluation of medical research, development, and treatment. A broad openness to transparency at the top level is critically important for the federal agency in charge of assessing the safety and effectiveness of new medical products that may harm or heal.

The FDA Commissioner is a public servant, who must be committed to improving the health of the public. This is a role with which Dr. Hahn is very familiar. He held the rank of commander in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps while working at the National Cancer Institute, a position dedicated to protecting and improving public health. The rapidly aging population deserve to have allies in top roles within the federal government who will advocate for their health and well-being and inclusion in the process. The Alliance is confident that Dr. Hahn is this ally.

If you have any questions about our support for Dr. Hahn, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 688-1246 or speschin@agingresearch.org. We thank the Committee for your consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Peschin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan Peschin, MHS
President and CEO