April 6, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander 455 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

HealthyWomen strongly endorses Dr. Scott Gottlieb as the next Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and we urge that you confirm his nomination swiftly. A fully operational FDA is critical for ensuring access to safe treatments for women and their families. We believe Dr. Gottlieb has the necessary skills, experience, and knowledge to lead the FDA.

Dr. Gottlieb’s prior FDA experience provides institutional knowledge to permit him to begin working immediately to enhance the agency. He has spoken out about the workforce issues that continue to affect the FDA, as well as the need for review flexibility and the importance of improving specialization and expertise among FDA reviewers. Improving specialization will help ensure therapies specific to women’s health receive a thorough review by agency staff and will ultimately improve health outcomes for women.

Dr. Gottlieb has highlighted the importance of biomarkers in developing novel treatments, which we view as a vital tool for helping to improve the efficiency and speed of drug development for women, while maintaining FDA’s core and critical standards for safety and efficacy. HealthyWomen recognizes research efforts to explore sex differences in biomarkers and their impact on basic research and clinical testing. We applaud Dr. Gottlieb’s support for exploring the promise of biomarkers to diagnose conditions, track disease progression and monitor therapeutic interventions.

Dr. Gottlieb has a strong track record as a supporter of biomedical research and innovation—two areas of critical importance to women’s health and sex differences research. His understanding about how to improve and enhance drug review at the FDA is an asset. HealthyWomen believes he is uniquely qualified to be FDA Commissioner and urges you to confirm him.

HealthyWomen is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the leading independent health information source for women. Our core mission is to educate, inform and empower women to make smart health choices for themselves and their families.

Sincerely,

Beth Battaglino, RN
Chief Executive Officer

Phyllis Greenberger
Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy