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March 31, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Senators Alexander and Murray,

The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA), the leading national patient advocacy organization representing the needs of sarcoma patients and their families, would like to express our enthusiastic support for the nomination of Scott Gottlieb, MD, as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The SFA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, advocates for increased research to find new and better therapies with which to treat patients with sarcoma. Sarcoma is a rare cancer of the connective tissue (bone, muscle, nerve, blood vessel, tendon, fat) with about 16,000 new cases and 6,000 deaths each year in the United States. At any one time, more than 50,000 patients and their families are struggling with Sarcoma. It is rather prevalent in children, accounting for about 20 percent of all childhood cancers.

The sarcoma community understands the importance of having strong leadership at the FDA. As a doctor and a cancer survivor, Dr. Gottlieb has proven through his distinguished career that he has the experience and knowledge to ensure that the agency successfully complete its important work, particularly in its efforts in drug review.

Dr. Gottlieb has an exemplary track record of supporting and spearheading efforts to ensure that safe and effective treatments are moved through the review process in an expedient manner. During his tenure as the Deputy Commissioner for Medical and Scientific Affairs at the FDA, Dr. Gottlieb championed the need for the FDA to be

efficient and patient-focused in its job of evaluating new therapies. This prior experience at the FDA and his efforts to increase efficiency through the Critical Path Initiative demonstrate his ability to improve the FDA through thoughtful, science-driven reforms. For these efforts, the SFA honored Dr. Gottlieb in 2007 with our Visionary in Medicine Award.

As you complete your work to confirm the next Commissioner of the FDA, we ask that you take into consideration the needs of the sarcoma community and confirm Dr. Scott Gottlieb. The Sarcoma Foundation of America looks forward to working with Dr. Gottlieb upon his confirmation on the important issues that directly impact the lives sarcoma patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bert E. Thomas IV". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Bert E. Thomas IV, PhD, MBA
Chief Executive Officer