



**Association of
American Medical Colleges**
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David J. Skorton, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

October 16, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions (HELP)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions (HELP)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

On behalf of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), I am pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Monica Bertagnolli to be director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The AAMC is a nonprofit association dedicated to improving the health of people everywhere through medical education, health care, medical research, and community collaborations. Its members are all 157 U.S. medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; 13 accredited Canadian medical schools; approximately 400 academic health systems and teaching hospitals, including Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and more than 70 academic societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC leads and serves America's medical schools academic health systems and teaching hospitals, and the millions of individuals across academic medicine, including more than 193,000 full-time faculty members, 96,000 medical students, 153,000 resident physicians, and 60,000 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers in the biomedical sciences. Following a 2022 merger, the Alliance of Academic Health Centers and the Alliance of Academic Health Centers International broadened participation in the AAMC by U.S. and international academic health centers.

As you know, the NIH plays a critical role in improving the health and well-being of families and communities through groundbreaking foundational discovery and life-saving medical research conducted by approximately 300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, and research institutions in every state in the nation, and serves as an important program of intramural research at the NIH campus. More than half of the external research that NIH supports occurs at AAMC-member institutions pursuing advances in disease prevention, treatment, and diagnosis, across the full spectrum of conditions facing patients everywhere.

In her current role as director of the National Cancer Institute at the NIH, and as a surgeon previously at the Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center and professor of surgery at Harvard

Medical School, Dr. Bertagnolli has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to improving people's health by advancing medical science. A distinguished clinician, scientist, and executive leader, Dr. Bertagnolli will bring strong credentials to the role as someone who has both generated medical research and has put it into practice.

Over its history, the NIH has enjoyed a strong tradition of exceptional leaders, most recently with Dr. Larry Tabak as Acting Director. The AAMC strongly believes that Dr. Bertagnolli will build on that longstanding legacy to take the NIH to new heights as the agency works to improve the health of people everywhere. We urge the Committee to move quickly and in a bipartisan manner to confirm Dr. Bertagnolli, both to ensure a seamless transition of this role and to best position the agency to capitalize on the fresh perspective and new vision that Dr. Bertagnolli will bring.

The AAMC is grateful for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Dr. Bertagnolli's nomination. Please contact AAMC Chief Public Policy Officer Danielle Turnipseed, JD, MHSA, MPP (dturnipseed@aamc.org) or me if the AAMC can be of additional assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Skorton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Skorton" clearly legible.

David J. Skorton, M.D.
President and CEO
Association of American Medical Colleges

cc: Members of the Senate HELP Committee