



September 25, 2023

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Committee
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Committee
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Sanders and Cassidy,

The American College of Radiology (ACR)—a professional association representing more than 41,000 diagnostic radiologists, interventional radiologists, radiation oncologists, nuclear medicine physicians and medical physicists, offers our strong support of the nomination of Monica Bertagnolli, MD, to be the next Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). ACR believes Dr. Bertagnolli is an ideal candidate for this nomination, and we urge her swift confirmation.

As Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Dr. Bertagnolli has both the experience of running one of the largest government agencies in the country as well as the proven ability to navigate the challenges of the federal legislative and regulatory processes. Dr. Bertagnolli has worked with various non-profits and associations, as well as government entities and private industry, and she is well equipped to engage with the numerous audiences that interact with the Office of the NIH Director. As a leading scientist, clinical trialist, physician, surgeon, and patient, Dr. Bertagnolli has an intricate understanding of a multitude of aspects of the biomedical research enterprise. Dr. Bertagnolli, the first female NCI Director, is aware of the complexities and personal impact of medical research and she displays the leadership skills necessary to serve in the role of NIH Director.

Dr. Bertagnolli has successfully guided federal cross-agency goals and initiatives. She has led NCI during the reignition of the Cancer Moonshot initiative, which aims to reduce the cancer death rate by at least 50 percent in the United States over the next 25 years and create a more supportive experience for patients and families. She has the skills needed to operate collaboratively across various agencies with the goal of enhancing biomedical research and serving patients most effectively.

Dr. Bertagnolli has played a prominent role in various developments in patient care during her time as NCI Director. Her accomplishments include improving the efficiency, inclusivity, and speed of clinical trials, increasing overall data sharing and utilization, and implementing pragmatic approaches to study design. Through these examples, Dr. Bertagnolli has been



directly involved with radiology and imaging tools and advancements, as they are necessary and highly utilized in NCI research.

For the reasons stated above, and countless more, the ACR urges the HELP Committee, as well as the full Senate, to vote in favor of Dr. Monica Bertagnolli's nomination for NIH Director. The ACR looks forward to collaborating with Dr. Bertagnolli in her new role as NIH Director and continuing its work with the Committee to improve care and timely access to imaging services for patients. Please do not hesitate to contact me or ACR staff, Gloria Romanelli, JD, Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs at gromanelli@acr.org or Katie Grady, Government Affairs Director at kgrady@acr.org, with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline A. Bello
Chair, Board of Chancellors

cc: Members, Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions