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Dear Commissioner Makary,

As you embark on the important work of leading the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO), representing more than 50,000 physicians and other cancer care professionals, would welcome the opportunity to discuss ways we can work together to enhance the quality and efficiency of care for individuals facing cancer, including children. ASCO is dedicated to supporting and conducting research that leads to improved patient outcomes and are committed to ensuring that evidence-based practices for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer are available to all Americans.

The agency's programs and regulatory policies impact the entire cancer care continuum, from diagnostics through the development of innovative treatments. FDA plays a crucial role in cancer care, ensuring patients have safe and effective cancer drugs, biologics, and medical devices. As you and your team consider ongoing challenges and potential regulatory responses, we look forward to working with you to address particularly important issues to the cancer care community, including ongoing cancer drug shortages (especially critical in the pediatric cancer patient population), improved access to cancer trials for all patients, and innovative trial designs and evidence generation.

Thanks in part to the work of the FDA, there are an estimated 18 million cancer survivors in America, and that number is growing.¹ New treatments that can significantly improve both the length of and quality of life for patients with cancer means we are living in an era where many types of cancer may rightfully be considered chronic diseases. ASCO supports research that identifies long-term health complications from cancer or its treatment, discovering ways to mitigate complications and enhance quality of life for survivors.

I offer ASCO as a resource to you and your staff for expert knowledge in clinical cancer care, research, and policies impacting both patients and the dedicated oncology professionals who care for them. Our staff will be in touch to arrange a time for ASCO leadership to meet with your team. We are committed to working together to improve cancer care and research. For future resources, discussions, and collaborations, ASCO's primary contact is Shimere Sherwood at shimere.sherwood@asco.org.

¹ <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/research/cancer-facts-and-statistics/cancer-treatment-and-survivorship-facts-and-figures/2022-cancer-treatment-and-survivorship-fandf-acf.pdf>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "EPW", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Eric P. Winer, MD, FASCO
Association Chair of the Board