



Students for Life Action Scoring Alert:

Vote NO on the Nomination of Dr. Robert Califf to Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration

January 11th, 2021

Members of the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

On behalf of our nearly 1,300 active groups and tens of thousands trained student activists across the nation, **Students for Life Action urges you to vote NO on the nomination of Dr. Robert Califf to head the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Your vote will be included in our Pro-Life Generation Scorecard for the 117th Congress.**

Dr. Califf is unfit for this FDA position due to his history of disregarding science and the wellbeing of the American people to advance the interests of pharmaceutical lobby. When Dr. Califf [previously held this position](#) during the Obama Administration, the FDA [made significant and harmful changes](#) to the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation System ([REMS](#)), for Chemical Abortion pills. These weakened health and safety standards permitted Chemical Abortion pills to be taken later in pregnancy when the pills are [less "effective"](#) and more dangerous to women. The FDA also removed the complication report mandate so abortion drug distributors would only be accountable for deaths after taking Chemical Abortion pills, not harm. Finally, the new REMS allowed women to act as amateur abortionists, DIYing their abortions at home without professional medical oversight at the facility dispensing the abortion drugs.

This is incredibly alarming considering the FDA recently expanded the distribution of Chemical Abortion drugs even further. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Corporate Abortion insisted that increased mail-order abortions were necessary for patients to receive care. In response, the FDA permanently dropped the REMS on December 16th, 2021. Their decision will save the abortion industry time, money, and labor. However, mothers and their preborn children have and will continue to pay the price.

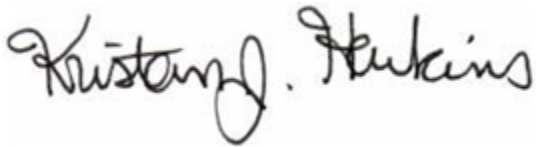
Without basic health and safety standards, abortionists can prescribe deadly Chemical Abortion pills with little to no medical oversight. Failure to examine a woman before and after a Chemical Abortion can lead to severe medical issues such as a deadly undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy and [infertility due to lack of blood type screening](#). Instead of receiving this life-saving care, women are often told their cramping and bleeding is normal, sit on the toilet, and flush the remains of their deceased child without looking at him or her.

These vulnerable women are essentially abandoned by the abortion industry to discern how much pain and bleeding is lethal. In fact, more than 20 women that we know of have died after taking Chemical Abortion pills. Countless more women have suffered from the emotional, psychological, and physical side effects of abortion such as immune system inhibition, infection, fever, septic shock, isolation, grief, regret, substance abuse, insomnia, nightmares, depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts.

With nearly 40% of abortions being committed using Chemical Abortion pills, this is a serious and timely issue that you must not overlook. Even those in favor of abortion should recognize that Dr. Califf's propensity for recklessly abandoning proper medical practices favors the multi-billion-dollar pharmaceutical industry, not the American people he seeks to serve. Should Dr. Califf be entrusted with this position again, we fully anticipate he will continue his abuse of power and radical abortion activism, risking the lives of women and children in the process.

We are the Pro-Life Generation, so we **ask that you vote NO on the nomination of Dr. Robert Califf to head the Food and Drug Administration.** Your vote in the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will be part of our scorecard that will be shared with our activists in all 50 states and the pro-life community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristan Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristan Hawkins
President, Students for Life Action