



October 11, 2023

Senator Bernie Sanders
Chair
Senate HELP Committee
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bill Cassidy
Ranking Member
Senate HELP Committee
United States Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

The American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network strongly support President Biden's nomination of Dr. Monica Bertagnolli as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and urge her swift confirmation.

Dr. Bertagnolli is an ideal candidate whose experience and leadership as a world-renowned clinician and researcher for over 30 years, make her exceptionally well-qualified to lead NIH today and into the future. As an innovative scientist, physician, and surgeon, she has a deep understanding of the importance of discovery, and she carries firsthand knowledge of the patient perspective as well.

Dr. Bertagnolli's excellent track record of leading organizations – including as Director of the National Cancer Institute – paired with her experience collaborating across the medical oncology, radiation oncology and pathology fields will inform and benefit her work across the NIH.

Dr. Bertagnolli will bring the experience and leadership necessary to guide the NIH into the future and to accelerate discovery, innovation, and treatments to address the high burden of disease impacting millions of Americans daily, including the more than 200 diseases we call cancer.

At a time that offers more potential for progress in clinical advancements and translational research than ever before, it is critical that world's preeminent biomedical, behavioral, and social science research power have permanent leadership. Therefore, we respectfully urge Dr. Bertagnolli's swift confirmation. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Boyd, Vice President of Federal Advocacy & Strategic Alliances, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, at Tammy.Boyd@cancer.org.

Sincerely,

Karen E. Knudsen, MBA, PhD
CEO, ACS and ACS CAN

Lisa A. Lacasse, MBA
President, ACS CAN