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July 1, 2019

Dr. Scott Gottlieb
Member of the Board
Pfizer
235 E. 42nd St
New York, NY 10017

Dear Dr. Gottlieb:

I am writing regarding yesterday's announcement that – just weeks after you stepped down as Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - you have joined the Board of Directors of Pfizer, one of the world's largest drug manufacturers.¹

I ask that you reconsider this decision. I was pleased to have worked with you on a number of public health priorities during your time at the FDA, including strengthening oversight of antibiotic use in animals and fighting the opioid epidemic.² Unlike other administration officials who dedicated themselves to rolling back public health and consumer regulations, you often used your tenure to strengthen protections for Americans: for example, you worked to reduce rates of youth tobacco use, and took steps to increase the FDA's transparency. But now, you will be on the board of a company that has billions of dollars at stake in the decisions made by the agency you used to head and the employees you used to lead.

You are the second high-level Trump Administration official in less than two months to join the board of a corporation soon after leaving government service. In May 2019, former Trump Administration DHS Secretary and Chief of Staff John Kelly joined the board of Caliburn, Inc., the parent company of the Comprehensive Health Services, which runs the notorious Homestead Temporary Shelter for Unaccompanied Children in Florida.³

This will certainly be a lucrative move for you - according to Pfizer, board members in 2018 were paid \$142,500 in cash retainers, plus received \$192,500 worth of Pfizer stock.⁴ But

¹ Pfizer, Press Release, Scott Gottlieb Elected to Pfizer's Board of Directors, June 27, 2019, https://www.pfizer.com/news/press-release/press-release-detail/scott_gottlieb_elected_to_pfizer_s_board_of_directors.

² See, e.g., Letter from Sen. Warren, Sen. Murray, and Sen. Smith to Scott Gottlieb, FDA Commissioner, October 10, 2018, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/oversight/letters/warren-murray-smith-press-fda-on-oversight-of-digital-health-devices>.


³ See, e.g., Letter from Sen. Warren and Rep. Jayapal to Jin Van Dusen, Chief Executive Officer, Caliburn, Inc., June 6, 2019, <https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2019.06.05%20Letter%20to%20Caliburn%20International%20re-%20John%20Kelly%20Appointment.pdf>.

⁴ Pfizer, 2019 Proxy Statement, Non-Employee Director Compensation, 2019, https://s21.q4cdn.com/317678438/files/doc_financials/interactive_proxy/2019-2/HTML1/pfizer-proxy2019_0045.htm.

this kind of revolving door influence-peddling smacks of corruption, and makes the American people rightfully cynical and distrustful about whether high-level Trump Administration officials are working for them, or for their future corporate employers.

I have introduced sweeping ethics legislation, the Anti-Corruption and Public Integrity Act, which would shut the revolving door and prohibit giant companies like Pfizer from wielding undue influence by hiring or compensating you or any other senior government officials for at least four years after leaving government service. I intend to keep working to make that plan law. In the interim, however, you should rectify your mistake and immediately resign from your position as a Pfizer board member. Doing so would send a strong and necessary message to the American people about the importance of government ethics and the integrity of current and former federal officials.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator