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July 23, 2019

Dr. Albert Bourla, DVM, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Pfizer, Inc.  
235 East 42<sup>nd</sup> St.  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Dr. Bourla:

I am writing to request additional information regarding the announcement last month that Dr. Scott Gottlieb, just weeks after leaving his job as Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), would be joining the Board of Directors of Pfizer.

I wrote to Dr. Gottlieb several weeks ago indicating my concern with this arrangement, and asking that he reconsider his decision and resign from the Pfizer board. In that letter, I reiterated my high regard for Dr. Gottlieb and how I worked with him on a number of public health priorities during his time at the FDA, including strengthening oversight of antibiotic use in animals and fighting the opioid epidemic.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Gottlieb responded to my letter on July 8, 2019.<sup>2</sup> I appreciated his willingness to respond, and that he noted our “constructive relationship and ... [our] work ... to advance shared public health priorities.”<sup>3</sup> I do not doubt Dr. Gottlieb’s intentions, and I hope he is correct when he stated, “My broad perspective on healthcare and my shared commitment to public health values informs the charge that I bring to my roles in the private sector, including my public and private board decisions,” and when he stated that he would “help Pfizer promote shared public health goals.”<sup>4</sup>

But I remain disappointed that Dr. Gottlieb appears to be unwilling to reconsider his decision to join the Pfizer board and concerned that his role on the board of one of the world’s largest drug manufacturer will cast a pall over any future FDA decisions affecting the company. Dr. Gottlieb’s rapid and lucrative trip through the revolving door will lead to countless questions about whether Pfizer is purchasing access to high-level Trump Administration officials and

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Sen. Elizabeth Warren to Scott Gottlieb, M.D., June 28, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Letter from Scott Gottlieb, M.D., to Sen. Elizabeth Warren, July 8, 2019[on file with the Office of Senator Warren].

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

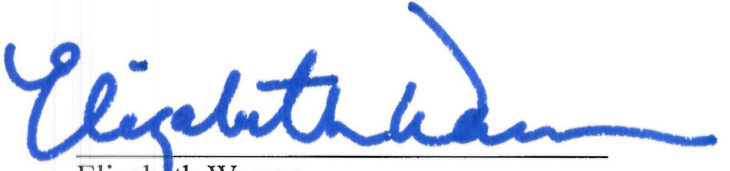
<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

whether top FDA staff are making decisions—even unconsciously—in ways that benefit their former leader.

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 the FDA Commissioner, or any other senior government official, for at least four years after they leave government service. I intend to keep working to make that plan law. In order to help inform this legislation and better understand how Dr. Gottlieb was appointed to the board of your company, I ask that you provide answers to the following questions no later than August 7, 2019.

1. When did Pfizer begin discussions or negotiations with Dr. Gottlieb about his appointment to the board?
  - a. Please provide a detailed timeline of all discussions and negotiations.
  - b. Are you aware of any discussions Dr. Gottlieb had with FDA ethics officials about his appointment or the negotiations and discussions that preceded his appointment? If so, please provide information on these discussions.
  - c. Are you aware of whether FDA ethics officials made any ethics determinations regarding Dr. Gottlieb's appointment to the board of Pfizer? If so, please provide copies of any documents including, determinations, ethics guidance, or ethics advice in your possession.
2. Did Pfizer officials, employees or representatives discuss ethics laws and rules in relation to Dr. Gottlieb's role as a board Member of Pfizer?
  - a. If so, please provide copies of all memoranda, notes or other materials discussing this issue.
3. Please provided detailed information on Dr. Gottlieb's compensation package for serving as a board member of Pfizer.
4. What are Dr. Gottlieb's roles and responsibilities as a Pfizer board member? Is he subject to any internal Pfizer ethics rules, given his former role as FDA Commissioner? Is he recused or waived from any board decisions or responsibilities?
5. Please provide copies of all email or other communications between Dr. Gottlieb or any Pfizer employees or representatives involving Dr. Gottlieb's offer and decision to join the board of Pfizer.

Sincerely,



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

cc: Scott Gottlieb, M.D.