Dear Senator,

We, the 370 undersigned health care providers and health professionals committed to providing comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion care, urge Senators to oppose Dr. Heidi Overton's confirmation as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

As providers in the reproductive health field, we believe Dr. Overton lacks the integrity and commitment to evidence-based research required to lead the FDA. If she is confirmed as FDA commissioner, we believe she would undermine the FDA's credibility, threaten access to reproductive health care, and endanger public health at large.

The FDA is responsible for protecting and promoting public health by ensuring the safety and effectiveness of drugs and other consumer goods. This goal is achieved through high-quality science and research, separate from politics. As medical providers, we rely on the FDA to provide accurate drug and health information that guides our work with patients. Dr. Overton's record proves she does not rely on scientific evidence and reason, but on a political agenda to restrict sexual and reproductive health care. For example, in her role at America First Policy Institute, Dr. Overton celebrated the *Dobbs* decision as a "huge victory" and advocated for restrictions on abortion care. This position is fundamentally at odds with our professional duty to respect patient autonomy and what we see on the ground day after day. Further, Dr. Overton co-authored an issue brief filled with false claims on the safety of medication abortion despite decades of research showing that it is extremely safe and effective.

In addition to Dr. Overton's alarming public statements against abortion access, her confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) proved she is unfit to lead the FDA. During the hearing, Dr. Overton avoided answering simple questions, such as whether she agreed with the FDA that mifepristone is safe and effective. Mifepristone's safety record is well-documented in over 100 research publications. Studies affirm that mifepristone and medication abortion is just as safe when patients receive care via telehealth, and a recent study shows that 96% of patients felt that telehealth was the right decision for them. Despite this overwhelming evidence of the safety, efficacy, and satisfaction with medication abortion, Dr. Overton expressed urgent commitment to the FDA's unnecessary mifepristone "safety" review. When asked, Dr. Overton also refused to acknowledge that IUDs are not abortifacients. To be clear, they are not. Confusing contraception for abortion is a long-time anti-abortion strategy to restrict access to all types of reproductive health care. Inflammatory false statements about contraceptives harm our ability to provide both contraceptive care and abortion care. Dr. Overton's appearance before the HELP committee proved she is willing to put misinformation before science.

As health care professionals and health care providers who provide care across the sexual and reproductive health spectrum, we are firmly committed to building a future where everyone has access to the health care they need in their communities without delay, barrier, or stigma. Dr. Heidi Overton is an unqualified candidate for FDA Commissioner with a political agenda that threatens the reproductive health and futures of everyone across the country. We urge you to oppose her nomination as FDA Commissioner.

Signed,

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