

*News from the*

**U.S. Senate Committee on  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions**

**Michael B. Enzi (Wyoming), Chairman**



**For Immediate Release  
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## **Enzi Meets with Acting FDA Head Von Eschenbach; Pledges Support to Keep FDA Moving Forward**

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Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), today pledged to work with Acting FDA Commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach to safeguard the FDA's commitment public health and press for needed reforms in the agency that will strengthen drug approval and drug safety procedures.

"Dr. von Eschenbach is taking charge of the FDA at a critical moment when many Americans need reassurance that drugs and health care products on the market are as safe and effective," Enzi said. "We must keep the FDA moving forward during this transitional period," Enzi added. "There's no time for wheel spinning."

"I want Congress to encourage and support Dr. von Eschenbach and the agency's employees, who have been through a lot, while a permanent Commissioner is found. FDA's mission to protect the public health has never been more important."

Dr. von Eschenbach, who is taking a leave of absence as Director of the National Cancer Institute to head the FDA temporarily, paid a visit to Enzi Tuesday afternoon. The HELP Committee Chairman has urged President Bush to move quickly to nominate a replacement to succeed Dr. Lester Crawford.

“It is vital that the Senate confirm a qualified nominee in an atmosphere free from political agendas as quickly as possible,” Enzi said, adding that he will encourage the President to nominate a candidate with demonstrated leadership capabilities, a strong knowledge of science and an unwavering commitment to promoting and protecting the public health.

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