



For Immediate Release

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Tuesday, August 1, 2006

***ENZI HOLDS CONFIRMATION HEARING ON FDA NOMINEE VON
ESCHENBACH; CALLS FOR SENATE CONFIRMED HEAD OF AGENCY***

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today held a confirmation hearing on Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs allowing members of the Committee the opportunity to hear Dr. von Eschenbach's vision for the future of the agency.

"The FDA has been without a confirmed Commissioner for all but 18 months out of the last five and a half years," Enzi said. "I think we all can agree that we need a strong leader at the FDA right now, and one who has a mandate to act. There are many items before the FDA that require the immediate attention of an FDA Commissioner vested with full authority. But that authority flows directly from the act of Senate confirmation. Without a Senate-confirmed leader, we can't expect the FDA to be as effective as we need it to be. I urge my colleagues to consider this as we move forward."

"As Commissioner of the FDA, Dr. von Eschenbach will be responsible for advancing the public health by helping to speed innovations in its mission areas, and by helping the public get accurate, science-based information on medicines and foods," Enzi added. "I know that as a physician, he takes this mission to heart."

"I look forward to working with Dr. von Eschenbach, the Committee's Ranking Member, Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and other members of this Committee to protect and promote the public health, and to maintain the FDA's status as one of the strongest regulatory agencies in the world," Enzi concluded.

Dr. von Eschenbach has been Acting Commissioner of FDA since 2005 and has a long and distinguished career in public service.

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