



For Immediate Release

Contact: Craig Orfield
(202) 224-6770

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***ENZI SUPPORTS HAMBURG NOMINATION
SAYS FDA MUST STAY FOCUSED ON PUBLIC HEALTH MISSION***

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.), Ranking Member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, today applauded HELP Committee approval of Dr. Margaret Hamburg’s nomination to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

“Given Dr. Hamburg’s expertise in emergency preparedness and public health, it is important that the Senate act on this nomination quickly,” Enzi said. “I support Dr. Hamburg’s nomination, and urge my colleagues to do the same.”

Enzi said that if Dr. Hamburg is confirmed, she will face unprecedented challenges to public health, from medical product development and biopreparedness to import safety, and added that Congress, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Administration will need to work cooperatively to meet those challenges.

Enzi expressed concern about a bill to require FDA to regulate tobacco, which the HELP Committee plans to mark up next week.

“FDA approves cures, not poisons. Putting an implied FDA seal of approval on a deadly product would send the wrong public health message. FDA resources are already stretched too thin – I have serious concerns about adding tobacco to the list of products the agency must regulate.”

He urged Congress to keep the agency focused on its core mission, regulating medical products designed to restore health and keeping the nation’s food supply safe.

“I want to thank Dr. Hamburg for her previous public service and her willingness to serve again,” Enzi said. “I look forward to working with her, if she is confirmed, to protect and promote the public health, and to restore FDA’s status as the gold standard for regulatory agencies.”

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