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### **Council for American Medical Innovation Applauds the Confirmation of Margaret Hamburg, M.D., to Lead U.S. Food and Drug Administration**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 20, 2009) – The Council for American Medical Innovation today expressed its support for the appointment and confirmation of Margaret Hamburg, M.D., to Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

“Commissioner Hamburg takes the reigns at a time when the United States faces unprecedented challenges in public health, and as this country is at risk of losing our edge in medical innovation,” said former House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt, President of the Council. “The Council for American Medical Innovation is encouraged by her sincere determination to put science first, helping pave the way for the future of health care. We support her efforts to bring more efficiency to the regulatory oversight of new medicines and cures while working to restore public confidence in the FDA.”

Commissioner Hamburg has publicly pledged her commitment to fostering medical innovation. At a Senate Health Committee hearing in early May, she remarked, “There has never been a time when advances in science and technology have offered so many opportunities to bring new medical products to the market and to the people who need them. As FDA Commissioner I would strive to lead an agency that appropriately balances innovation with regulation.” She said she would work to “create an environment where scientists feel very free to raise issues and concerns without any fear of retaliation.”

“Dr. Hamburg possesses the knowledge and expertise to lead the FDA into a new era,” Gephardt said. “We support her mission to safely bring life-saving medicines and treatments from the laboratory to the patients who need them most.”

The Council would also like to take this opportunity to express its support for the successful confirmation of Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

“Secretary Sebelius faces the enormous challenge of leading the largest health care reform initiative in decades,” said Gephardt. “The Council for American Medical Innovation hopes she will balance the need for affordable health care for all Americans with the need for policies that preserve and nurture medical innovation, new discoveries and cures.”

**About the Council for American Medical Innovation**

The United States faces serious challenges to maintaining its leadership position in innovation. The Council for American Medical Innovation is bringing together leaders in research, medicine, public health, academia, education, labor, and business, who are working in partnership toward a national policy agenda aimed at preserving U.S. leadership in medical innovation. American medical innovators create millions of high-paying jobs, and their discoveries are integral in the fight to cure cancer and other illnesses. The Council for American Medical Innovation views leadership in medical innovation as a key part of America's economic recovery, future prosperity and health.

For more information on the Council for American Medical Innovation, visit

[www.americanmedicalinnovation.org](http://www.americanmedicalinnovation.org).

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