



## Press Release:

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## Former FDA Commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach To Head Manhattan Institute's Project FDA Initiative

**New York, NY:** The Manhattan Institute is pleased to announce Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach as chairman of its Project FDA initiative. Dr. von Eschenbach was formerly commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (2005-2009) and director of the National Cancer Institute (2001-2006). The Manhattan Institute's Project FDA aims to reform the FDA by educating the public on the FDA's critical role in advancing medical innovation; highlighting the potential for new sciences to improve health while lowering costs; and collaborating with patient groups, industry stakeholders, and policymakers to modernize the FDA's policies and procedures.

"[Medical Innovation: How the U.S. Can Retain Its Lead](#)" by Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, appears in today's *Wall Street Journal*.

"We're honored that former-FDA commissioner Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach has joined the Manhattan Institute to lead our efforts on FDA reform. Innovative medical technologies have the potential to save lives, cut health care costs, and spur U.S.-based job creation. Focusing on the role of the FDA will allow the Manhattan Institute to advance our vision for an innovation-based economy and expand U.S. leadership of a vital global industry." – Lawrence Mone, president, Manhattan Institute

"I am honored to join the Manhattan Institute's long and dedicated effort to ensure that our nation's investments in discovery and development will pay dividends for the health of our citizens. Project FDA will serve to keep this agency as the world's gold standard." – Dr. Andrew C. von Eschenbach, chairman, Project FDA, Manhattan Institute

"Dr. von Eschenbach's years of experience at both the FDA and NCI will prove invaluable in shaping the continuing mission of Project FDA, which aims to reform the FDA to meet twenty-first century challenges." – Paul Howard, director, Center for Medical Progress, Manhattan Institute

While modern medicine and technology have allowed for an unprecedented environment of innovation, today's FDA needs additional tools and funding to keep up with rapid advances in the basic sciences. The FDA regulates products accounting for a quarter of all domestic consumer spending. Ensuring that this vital agency is flexible and responsive enough to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century is of paramount importance to the nation's economic health. Project FDA believes the FDA can become a bridge for innovation, rather than a barrier to it, and that this can be achieved without sacrificing patient safety.

Project FDA is an initiative of the Manhattan Institute's Center for Medical Progress, which is dedicated to articulating the connection between free-market institutions and medical progress. The Center for Medical Progress encourages the development of market-based policy alternatives to sustain medical progress and promote medical innovation.

**Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.** is chairman of the Manhattan Institute's Project FDA. He served as commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration from September of 2005 to January 2009 where he championed an agenda to modernize the FDA. Dr. von Eschenbach joined the FDA after serving for four years as director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institutes of Health, where he set an ambitious goal to eliminate the suffering and death due to cancer by rapid acceleration and integration of the discovery-development-delivery continuum. At the time of his appointment by President Bush to serve as director of NCI, he was president-elect of the American Cancer Society. Dr. von Eschenbach entered government service after over three decades as a physician, surgeon, oncologist, and executive that included numerous leadership roles from chairman of the department of urologic oncology to executive vice president and chief academic at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Dr. von Eschenbach earned a B.S. from St. Joseph's University in his native Philadelphia and a medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C.

More information about Project FDA can be found by visiting  
<http://www.manhattan-institute.org/projectfda/>.

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