

April 4, 2019

Dear Governor DeSantis,

It is my honor to write in support of your nominee Dr. Scott Rivkees for the position of Surgeon General for the State of Florida. I have known Dr. Rivkees for more than a decade. As the past president of the Association of Pediatric Academic Department Chairs, I worked closely with Dr. Rivkees for the past several years. He has played a pivotal role in our organizations advocacy efforts. He has a broad brush of expertise in public policy and healthcare.

Dr. Rivkees is an accomplished practicing physician, scientist and academic leader currently serving as Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Florida. I have worked directly with Scott on many national research advisory committees, committees advising the National Institutes of Health as well as the Pediatric Public Policy Committee supported by the American Pediatric Society, the Society of Chairs of Academic Medical Schools, the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Scott is highly professional and extremely knowledgeable. He is thoughtful in his approach to policy and comes to each position carefully considering all points of view. I was delighted he was willing to consider this role. Florida is truly lucky to have a physician of Dr. Rivkees caliber as its next surgeon General.

Congratulations on an excellent appointment!

With this note I send my regards and best wishes to you and your administration.

Sincerely,



Valerie P. Opiari M.D.
Ravitz Foundation Endowed Professor of Pediatrics
Professor, Pediatric Hematology Oncology
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital, University of Michigan
Michigan Medicine Health System