



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

April 30, 2009

Chairman Max Baucus
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

I applaud your leadership as the Finance Committee continues to work in a bipartisan way toward our shared goal of enacting meaningful health reform legislation this year. You took an important first step this week, by announcing proposals aimed at improving the value and efficiency of health care and reining in the rising cost of health care. The policies you proposed will cut down on waste, fraud and abuse, reduce medical errors and improve the quality of care for patients. Among your proposals are ideas we have long supported:

- Promoting primary care and prevention,
- Realigning incentives to promote high-quality care,
- Increasing transparency to empower patients and providers, and
- Reducing waste, fraud, and abuse.

The Finance Committee, in partnership with other key Committees, is doing important work to address the public's urgent need for health reform. We welcome your ideas as we continue working closely with the committees to explore the many ways in which we can achieve the goals of cutting health care costs and assuring quality and affordable health care for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Sebelius".

Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services