



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

November 12, 2009

Steven Teutsch, M.D., M.P.H.  
Chair  
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society  
NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities  
6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

Dear Dr. Teutsch:

I am writing to thank you and the members of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society (SACGHS) for your letter of September 2, 2009, regarding genetic priorities and health care reform. I agree that genetic and genomic innovations have the potential to improve health care, and I appreciate your vision of priority areas that should be addressed to ensure the optimal use of these innovations.

As you recognized, electronic health records will be crucial for the appropriate integration of genetics and genomics into health care and health care systems. I am particularly grateful that the Committee has also communicated its perspective to the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. Your insights regarding comparative effective research and the value of genetic services in coordinated health care are also appreciated.

I commend the SACGHS for its history of outstanding work and value the Committee's advice and guidance regarding the role of genetics in health care reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kathleen Sebelius