

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 15, 2005

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

It was a pleasure to meet with you in your new role as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. As you know, I am concerned about the effect of the President's Medicaid proposals on the States and children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities who depend on this program. As I mentioned in our meeting, if there are problems in the program, they should be addressed appropriately. I take that responsibility no less seriously now than I did as Chairman.

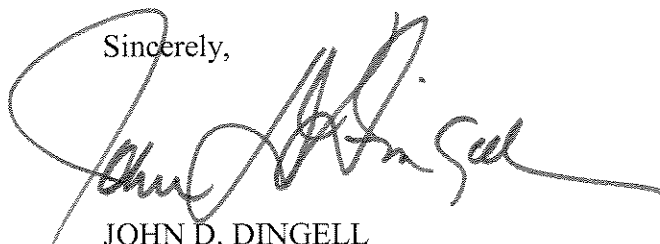
Therefore, I would like to better understand the details behind the proposals as well as the state-by-state effects. In that vein, I request that the Department send the following items no later than Thursday, February 24, 2005:

1. Legislative language for each of your Medicaid FY2006 budget proposals that reduces spending for the program. If you do not yet have legislative language, please send sufficient detail on each proposal that would allow these proposals to be drafted.
2. State-by-state tables showing the reduction in federal funding lost in each state as a result of each proposal.

The House and Senate plan to finish crafting a budget resolution before the March recess; the Budget Committees will be marking up shortly after the February recess. It is therefore essential to have a thorough understanding of your policies prior to that debate.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Dingell", written in a cursive style.

JOHN D. DINGELL  
RANKING MEMBER

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
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cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Nathan Deal, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Sherrod Brown, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health