

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Office of the Secretary

APR 15 2002**Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Public Health and Science
Washington D.C. 20201**

Mark Brecher, M.D.
Chair, DHHS Advisory Committee on Blood
Safety and Availability
Transfusion Medicine Service
The University of North Carolina Hospitals
101 Manning Drive
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Dear Dr. Brecher:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Thompson forwarding the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Blood Safety and Availability.

I am pleased to endorse each of these recommendations. We are presently reviewing Emergency Support Function #8 (ESF8) of the Federal Response Plan to determine how best to address the recommendations of the American Association of Blood Banks Inter-organizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism into ESF8. I look forward to additional communication with this group on how to evaluate the adequacy of our blood reserves, and of the reagents and supplies necessary to manufacture these reserves.

I also look forward to additional communication with this group, and other interested parties, on how we can work together to identify blood donors as a critical national resource, and to promote blood donation as a national service to maintain enough blood on the shelf to permit rational management of routine needs and disaster responses.

I look forward to continuing to work together in the future in addressing blood safety and availability issues.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eve E. Slater".

Eve E. Slater, M.D., F.A.C.C.
Assistant Secretary for Health