

MESSAGE FROM THE FDA COMMISSIONER



I am pleased to present the FY 2008 Congressional Justification for Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The FDA Congressional Justification contains a performance budget request that supports public health priorities and reflects the goals and objectives in the Department's FY 2004–2009 Strategic Plan. Our justification contains the FY 2008 Annual Performance Plan and the FY 2006 Annual Performance Report, as required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993.

At FDA, we manage our programs to achieve measurable results and objectives that protect and advance the public health. In our Congressional Justification, we directly link the proposed budget with program performance. The Congressional Justification also highlights our progress on achieving FDA strategic goals.

Our budget request maintains FDA's ability to fulfill critically important core responsibilities. In FY 2008, we request funds to strengthen food safety, strengthen drug and medical device safety, and improve performance as we review generic drugs applications. The budget requests funds for pay and infrastructure that enable FDA to recruit, train, and retain a diverse staff of highly skilled professionals and scientists. Our skilled workforce allows FDA to achieve the gold standard for regulating foods, drugs, and medical products.

The FY 2008 budget is based on FDA receiving the President's Budget request for FY 2007. In the event that FDA must operate on a full year continuing resolution at the current rate, FDA must lower its performance targets and outcomes to reflect reduced spending rates. If this occurs, we will apply a risk-based approach to deploy resources to achieve our public health mission: assuring the safety, efficacy and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, and medical devices, and assuring the safety of the nation's food supply.

At FDA, we pledge to continue to speed innovations that make our food supply safer and make medical products effective, safer, and more affordable. We also pledge to continue to ensure that the public receives accurate, science-based information so they can use medicines and foods to improve their health. We will be good stewards of the resources that Congress provides and build a healthier America for generations to come.

Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.