



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

MAR 24 2006 2006 MAR 35 AM 10: 24

The Honorable John F. Kerry  
United States Senate  
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6350

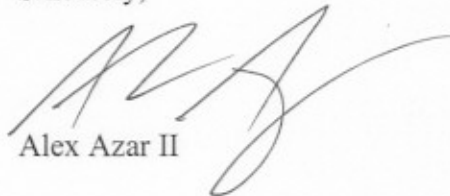
Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your letter regarding the procurement program for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SDVOSBs). We strongly support efforts to ensure that these veterans and their businesses can compete for and win government contracts.

As your letter arrived, we were in the midst of preparing a report on this very topic. We thought the report would be the fullest and most comprehensive answer to your questions and concerns. We are pleased to enclose our completed report.

If you have any further questions regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Alex Azar II

Enclosure