



STATE OF ARIZONA

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JANET NAPOLITANO  
GOVERNOR

April 30, 2007

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

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my support for the important goals that are sought by the Department of Health and Human Services' (the Department) initiative to advance Value-Driven Health Care. I agree it is important for leaders in the private and public sectors to embrace new tools to maximize the outcomes of our health care system.

As you know, Arizona has long been noted for its ability to contain costs while offering high quality of care through our Medicaid program, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). The Value-Driven Health Care cornerstones include important principles that can help ensure that Arizona remains a leader in building systems that place a high priority on efficient and effective patient care.

An example of Arizona's current leadership in driving smart change in the health care system is the great progress we have made in our commitment to electronic health records and health information exchange interoperability. The \$12 million grant that AHCCCS was recently granted by the Department is a much appreciated investment that will clearly accelerate Arizona's utilization of health information technology to improve the lives of our residents.

On many other aspects, Arizona's state-run health care purchasers have yet to reach the point of agreeing on any one set of standards or approaches to value-driven health care. However, you should know that I have challenged these agencies to implement elements identified in the Four Cornerstones of Value-Driven Health Care.

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The goals of the cornerstones are important principles for both state and federal leaders. I appreciate and support your leadership on this issue and welcome the challenge that you have provided.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janet Napolitano  
Governor