



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

MAY 31 2006

Reed V. Tuckson, M.D.
Chair
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society
NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities
6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Tuckson:

Thank you for your report, *Coverage and Reimbursement of Genetic Tests and Services*, describing the current state of coverage and reimbursement of genetic tests and services and financing and delivery system challenges that may be affecting access to genetic tests and services. Your report explains why addressing barriers is critical if Americans are to fully benefit from advances in genetics and genomics and suggests a number of ways in which the Federal Government can help to improve access to genetic tests and services.

I appreciate SACGHS's foresight in identifying these issues and for your thoughtful and thorough analysis of the steps to take to reduce the barriers to coverage and reimbursement of genetic tests and services. I will keep you apprised of our progress in considering your recommendations in this important area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael O. Leavitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Michael O. Leavitt