



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

AUG 12 2004

Edward R. B. McCabe, M.D., Ph.D.
Chair
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society
NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities
6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750
Bethesda, MD 20892

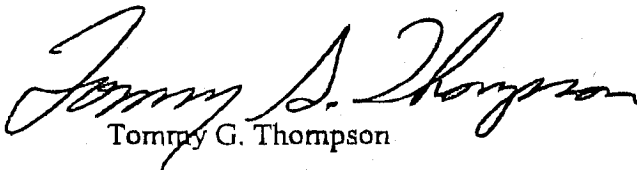
Dear Dr. McCabe:

I am writing in reply to your recent correspondence expressing concerns of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society (SACGHS) about the status of genetic nondiscrimination legislation in the House of Representatives. I commend SACGHS's continued focus on this important issue and appreciate your valuable advice and guidance. The synopsis of the public testimony you received was both informative and timely and will facilitate our work on this issue.

As you know, the President is a strong advocate of Federal legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information in health insurance and employment. Let me assure you, we will continue to work with Congress to pass genetics nondiscrimination legislation. Genetic discrimination clearly has no place in our great country, and the President is eager to sign this important legislation into law.

Thank you again for your input on this critical issue and for all of the work you are doing to address priority issues at the intersection of genetics, health and society.

Sincerely,


Tommy G. Thompson