

STATE OF COLORADO

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792
Phone (303) 866-2471



Bill Owens
Governor

September 20, 2006

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

Mike —

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the President's recent executive order that aims to bring greater transparency and efficiency to our nation's health care system. I applaud the President's leadership, which will empower Americans to become better and more informed health care consumers.

Throughout my two terms as Governor, I have continuously pushed for greater consumer-directed care. I realize that in order for consumers to take charge of their health, they must be equipped with the necessary tools. When it comes to health care, information is key. Therefore, I commend the President's action in helping to promote healthcare cost and quality transparency.

I am proud to say that my Administration is committed to helping ensure that Coloradans have necessary information upon which to make educated health care decisions. I recently signed two important pieces of legislation that will provide consumers with information on hospital quality and patient safety information as well as infection rates. Additionally, the Colorado Division of Insurance has taken many steps to improve the information consumers have to make informed health insurance decisions in a consumer-directed environment. The Division has created an online interactive premium comparison guide, published a consumer guide to HSA's, and provided consumers with information they can use to compare health insurers. However, consumers still do not have easy access to cost information. I believe the President's efforts will help fill that void.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Bill Owens
Bill Owens

RECEIVED
2006 SEP 28 A 9:03
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL CENTER