



March 20, 2007

The Honorable Mike Leavitt  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), I am pleased to endorse the department's Value-Driven Health Care Initiative.

As both employers and health care providers, the nation's counties have a vested interest in improving the quality of care and reducing costs. By providing more accurate and easily available information to health care consumers, the initiative will help us achieve those goals. Additionally, the initiative could serve as a tool to promote preventive health care measures, which will in turn reduce chronic illness.

We look forward to working with the Department to promote the initiative at future NACo events such as our annual conference. Under separate cover we have invited you to speak to our 3,000 plus delegates in Richmond, VA in July on this subject and hope you can attend.

If you have any questions about possible joint efforts, please feel free to contact me or Ed Rosado, our legislative director at 202-942-4271 or [erosado@naco.org](mailto:erosado@naco.org). We look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry".

Larry E. Naake  
Executive Director