



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

MAY 15 2001

Marcia S. Mabee, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Coalition for Health Funding
11479 Waterview, Suite 200
Reston, VA 20190

Dear Dr. Mabee:

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of your organization and for your kind welcoming remarks. Thank you also for providing me with your thoughts on our most important challenges.

I am pleased to say that the President's fiscal year 2002 budget for the Department responds to many of these challenges. It provides a \$2.7 billion increase for our discretionary programs to enhance support for scientific research as well as for research to improve the quality of the Nation's health care system. Among areas receiving increases are the following:

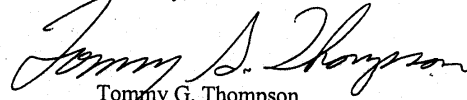
- a \$33 million increase for activities to address the global HIV threat, primarily in Africa;
- a \$5 million increase to strengthen the nurse workforce and address the potential of a nursing shortage in the future;
- a \$35 million increase for FDA to assure the safety of our food supply; and
- a \$100 million increase to help close the treatment gap for people with serious substance abuse problems who are not receiving the treatment they desperately need.

I share your focus on the continuum of public health activities in critical areas, which I believe encompass not only biomedical research, but also behavioral and health services research, community based prevention strategies, health care services for medically underserved populations, and health professions training. Sustaining these activities throughout the U.S. Public Health Service, as well as state and local agencies, is critical as the Department strives to build a strong and healthy America.

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I look forward to working with you to achieve our mutual goals of protecting and promoting the health of the American people, and I appreciate your taking the time to write and express your concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Tommy G. Thompson