



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

August 13, 2012

Kay Johnson, M.Ed., M.P.H.
Chairperson
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 13-91
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality (SACIM) supporting the Administration's commitment to developing a national strategy to address infant mortality. As you know, this will be our country's first national strategy to address this very important health issue.

The strategies and approaches discussed in your letter provide a framework that could help yield important services and benefits to millions of women and infants across the country. Leveraging relationships and collaboration across all federal governmental agencies – as well as at the state, community, and local levels in a multi-faceted effort – will be important to develop and implement the strategy.

In addition, implementation of the Affordable Care Act will be a vital part of any strategies to address infant mortality. As you know, the law contains provisions that will not only increase the number of women who have health insurance coverage but will also help ensure that women and children receive the preventive services they need to lead healthy lives.

I appreciate the valuable contributions of the SACIM in providing advice and expertise to optimize birth outcomes and the health of all infants born in the United States. Our collective efforts at the federal level and in collaboration with our state and community partners can make a difference in reducing infant mortality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kathleen Sebelius