



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

October 17, 2013

Kay A. Johnson, M.P.H., M.Ed.
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) providing greater detail on how to operationalize the first strategic direction—improving the health of women before, during, and beyond pregnancy—from your January 2013 report *Recommendations for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Action and Framework for a National Strategy*.

By identifying four core recommendations for this strategy, along with six related actions for consideration, it is clear that SACIM is building on the efforts of the Administration to improve women's health through implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Addressing health disparities, particularly in infants and women, is a priority for the Department, and the Affordable Care Act will provide our country with many opportunities to refocus efforts on these very important issues.

I have directed my staff to thoroughly review the report and identify ways we can incorporate the recommended actions into our national strategy to address infant mortality. I appreciate the efforts of SACIM and look forward to our continued work together on infant mortality national strategy activities. I will also provide this response to Dr. Handler.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Sebelius



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

October 17, 2013

Arden Handler, Dr.PH
Chair
Women's Health Work Group
Secretary's Advisory Committee on
 Infant Mortality
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 13-91
Rockville, MD 20857

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