



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

April 27, 2011

The Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on the
Designation of Medically Underserved Populations
and Health Professions Shortage Areas
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 9A-18
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for your letter and interim report updating me on the actions of the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on the Designation of Medically Underserved Populations (MUPs) and Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSAs). I am encouraged to hear that you are making significant progress toward establishing the criteria and a comprehensive methodology for the designation of MUPs and HPSAs.

Given the number of complex and substantive issues to be addressed, I grant your request for additional time to reach consensus and complete a final report. The new deadline for submitting the report to me will be October 31, 2011.

I appreciate the efforts of the Committee, and I look forward receiving your report in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

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

Kathleen Sebelius