



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

OCT - 9 2014

Kay A. Johnson  
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 second strategic direction—ensuring access to a continuum of safe and high-quality, patient-centered care—from your January 2013 report *Recommendations for Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Action and Framework for a National Strategy*.

As you know, reducing the nation's infant mortality rate is a priority for the Department. I have directed my staff to thoroughly review the core recommendations and action items detailed in your letter and identify ways HHS might incorporate them into the national strategy to address infant mortality. You may be pleased to know that HHS already has activities underway that align with many of your recommendations, such as the Strong Start for Mothers and Newborns initiative and efforts to continue to improve access to high-quality care through the Affordable Care Act. I appreciate SACIM's time and efforts in developing and continuing to provide me with in-depth information on the strategic directions from your report.

I value your leadership and expertise and look forward to our continued work together on infant mortality national strategy activities. I will also provide this response to Dr. Shields.

Sincerely,

/S/

Sylvia M. Burwell



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Sara G. Shields, MD, MS, FAAFP  
Chair  
Ensuring Access to a Continuum of Safe and  
High-Quality, Patient-Centered Care Work Group  
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Infant Mortality  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 13-91  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Shields:

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/s/

Sylvia M. Burwell