



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

July 2, 2010

Steven Teutsch, M.D., M.P.H.
Chair
Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society
NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities
6705 Rockledge Drive, Suite 750
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Teutsch:

Thank you for your work on *Gene Patents and Licensing Practices and Their Impact on Patient Access to Genetic Tests*. The report explores the effects of patents and licensing practices on basic genetic research, genetic test development, patient access to genetic tests, and genetic testing quality and offers advice on how to address harms and potential future problems that the Committee identified.

The Department of Health and Human Services shares the Committee's concern for the development of, and equitable access to, clinically useful genetic tests. The Department is also committed to ensuring that the United States maintains a competitive position in life science research and development. My staff will keep you updated regarding our review of the SACGHS report and recommendations.

I appreciate SACGHS's thorough consideration and advice on this important topic, and thank you and the Committee for your dedicated service to the Department and the Nation.

Sincerely,

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

Kathleen Sebelius