

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 12, 2006

The Honorable Michael Leavitt
Secretary
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

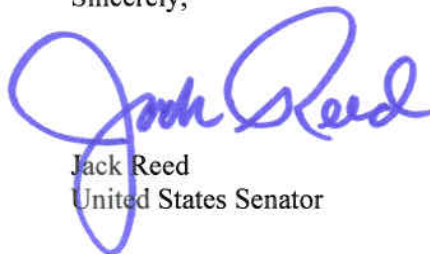
I write to urge you to renew the charter and fully fund the Department of Health and Human Services Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee (CFSAC). As you know, CFSAC is a federal advisory committee that provides evidence-based advice on the current state of research on chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and potential scientific opportunities, current and proposed diagnostic and treatment methods, and the development and implementation of programs to educate the public, health care professionals, and researchers about CFS research and advances.

Chronic fatigue syndrome, also called chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome, is a complex and debilitating illness that affects the brain and multiple body systems. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that more than one million American adults and teens have CFS, costing our nation an estimated \$9.1 billion a year in lost productivity—not including medical costs. CFS warrants serious attention by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Meetings of the CFSAC provide a vital opportunity for experts selected by the Department to hear reports from, provide input to, and monitor progress of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Social Security Administration (SSA). The CFSAC meetings also provide the patient community the opportunity to participate in these discussions and voice concerns through public testimony. Thus, CFSAC allows for greater transparency and accountability, helping to ensure the most effective utilization of federal resources dedicated to CFS.

The CFSAC serves as an important forum for obtaining information, providing input, and monitoring progress on federal activities pertaining to CFS. As such, I urge you to renew CFSAC's charter before its September 5, 2006 date of expiration and fully support its continued work.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator