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May 24, 2006

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20201


Dear Secretary Leavitt:

I am writing to ask you to renew the charter and fully fund the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee (CFSAC). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate the over one million adults and teens in the U.S. have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) costing our nation an estimated \$9.1 billion a year in lost productivity.

Since it began in 2003, the advisory committee has provided a vital opportunity for experts and the CFS patients to participate in discussions and have input in to many of the programs across HHS that seek to serve patients and health professionals, and provide research in this area. In addition to serving as a focal point for discussions, the advisory committee has provided you with evidence-based advice on current issues related to this disease.

Because the advisory committee serves such a vital role in connecting programs, the public and the experts, I believe it is important that the advisory committee be able to continue its work. I urge you to renew the charter for CFSAC before its expiration on September 5, 2006.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senate

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