

Letter to the Secretary: June 10-12, 2007, Fort Collins, Colorado

July 3, 2007

The Honorable Michael M. Leavitt
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt,

I would like to share with you findings from our most recent field meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado on June 10-12, 2007. As you know, each year, the Committee conducts two field meetings to speak with local rural health and human services experts in order to glean information for the Committee's Annual Report.

The Committee visited Fort Collins, Colorado to learn more about issues related to the 2008 Report. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Committee, and the report will discuss key issues and successes over the past two decades. The report will also look to the future of rural health and human services, anticipating the opportunities and challenges likely to confront rural providers.

Two site visits in Colorado afforded Committee members a chance to visit rural communities. The Health Subcommittee visited a Critical Access Hospital in Brush, Colorado while the Human Services Subcommittee visited an HHS-funded Area Agency on Aging in Fort Morgan, Colorado. Findings from the field meeting and site visits will be shared with you in the 2008 Report.

Within the next several months, the Committee will work to finalize a draft of the 2008 report. The next field meeting will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, from September 12-14, 2007. Thank you again for your support of this Committee and your support of rural America.

Sincerely,

David M. Beasley
Chair

