



**A Coalition of 12 Medical Societies Representing
more than 220,000 Specialty Physicians in the United States**

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January 17, 2005

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman, Finance Committee
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
Ranking Member, Finance Committee
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Baucus:

The undersigned members of the Alliance of Specialty Medicine wholeheartedly support the nomination of Governor Mike Leavitt for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We urge the Senate to approve his appointment as soon as possible.

The Alliance is a coalition of 12 national medical specialty societies representing more than 220,000 physicians. Our non-partisan group is dedicated to the development of sound federal health care policy that fosters patient access to the highest quality specialty care.

Governor Leavitt has the experience and leadership skills needed to take the helm of HHS at a crucial time. He will be tasked with the implementation of the Medicare prescription drug plan and solving physician reimbursement and medical liability challenges. Governor Leavitt knows the value of building a consensus to solve tough challenges together. He is a common-sense leader who knows how to deliver results.

The Alliance is ready to work with Secretary Leavitt on improving the health care and well-being for America's citizens. Please contact the Alliance at (202) 728-0610 for additional information.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Dermatology Association
American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons
American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Gastroenterological Association
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
American Urological Association
National Association of Spine Specialists
Society of Thoracic Surgeons

cc: United States Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Bill Frist, MD, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader

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American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons • American College of Cardiology • American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists • American Gastroenterological Association •
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology • American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery
American Urological Association • National Association of Spine Specialists • Society of Thoracic Surgeons