

Tommy G. Thompson

Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is the nation's leading advocate for the health and welfare of all Americans. He is the 19th individual to serve as Secretary of the department, which employs more than 60,000 personnel and has a fiscal year 2003 budget of nearly \$503 billion.

Since becoming Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary Thompson has launched major initiatives to:

- strengthen the nation's preparedness for a bioterrorism attack;
- substantially increase funding for the National Institutes of Health;
- reorganize the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to encourage greater responsiveness and efficiency;
- clear the backlog of waivers and state plan amendments, approving 1,400 and thereby provide health insurance to 1.8 million lower-income Americans throughout the nation;
- urge all Americans to prevent disease by focusing on critical health areas, such as obesity, diabetes and health disparities; and
- take the next bold step to continue making welfare a path to employment and opportunity.

Secretary Thompson has dedicated his professional life to public service, most recently serving as governor of Wisconsin since 1987. Secretary Thompson made state history when he was re-elected to office for a third term in 1994 and a fourth term in 1998.

During his 14 years as governor, Secretary Thompson focused on revitalizing Wisconsin's economy. He also gained national attention for his leadership on welfare reform, expanded access to health care for low-income people, and education.

Secretary Thompson began his career in public service in 1966 as a representative in Wisconsin's state Assembly. He was elected assistant Assembly minority leader in 1973 and Assembly minority leader in 1981. Secretary Thompson has received numerous awards for his public service, including the Anti-Defamation League's Distinguished Public Service Award. In 1997, the Secretary received *Governing Magazine's* Public Official of the Year Award, and the Horatio Alger Award in 1998. The Secretary has also served as chairman of the National Governors' Association, the Education Commission of the States and the Midwestern Governors' Conference. Secretary Thompson also served in the Wisconsin National Guard and the Army Reserve.

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