



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

MAY 14 2002

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

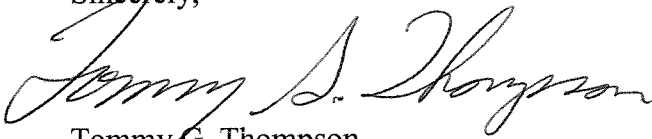
Dear Mr. Waxman:

Thank you for your letter concerning lead screening for young children enrolled in Medicaid. I share your view that lead poisoning is a serious problem.

First, let me make it clear that no change in policy has been made in the Medicaid program regarding lead screening for children. Second, be assured that I will continue to rely on the expertise of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for policy recommendations on lead screening. In fact, at the April 30, 2002 workgroup meeting of the Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, the Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMSO) informed the workgroup that the Medicaid program will continue to rely on CDC guidance as it has historically. Moreover, the workgroup was assured that Medicaid will not adopt any change in policy on its own.

I appreciate your interest in our work to protect the health of America's children. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any further questions on this matter. I also will provide this response to the co-signors of your letter.

Sincerely,


Tommy G. Thompson