



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

April 7, 2011

Dear Workshop Participants/Attendees:

I want to express my high hopes for the success of the State of Knowledge Workshop on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) Research. I understand what a devastating disease this is for patients and their loved ones. The disorder often goes undiagnosed and can rob individuals of their quality of life. While there are treatments directed at reducing symptom severity, I realize no cure exists for this condition.

I want to assure you that several agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are working together with the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee and advocacy groups to develop interdisciplinary initiatives that will address important aspects of this illness, including improved diagnosis and treatments. This Workshop represents an important step towards addressing our strategic goal of advancing scientific knowledge and innovation to improve patient care. I applaud the planning of this conference through a collaboration of scientific experts, federal officials, patients, and advocates so that we can maximize the information obtained during these two days.

I want to thank the many scientists, clinicians, and others who are participating in the Workshop. I would like to especially recognize the many patients and advocates who have shared their perspectives with my colleagues and me. Your efforts to improve the science as well as help individuals with ME/CFS are greatly appreciated. My best wishes for a very successful workshop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kathleen Sebelius