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HERB KOHL
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030820070033

United States Senate

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March 7, 2007

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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The Honorable Michael Leavitt
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201


Dear Secretary Leavitt,

It is my understanding your Department is developing its agency spending plan this week. I am writing to inquire about the status of a Wisconsin project. In the Senate FY 2007 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, the Beloit Area Dental Clinic was awarded \$500,000 to provide dental care for uninsured and underinsured residents of Beloit and Janesville, WI.

With the shortage of dentists and the few that treat Medicaid and uninsured patients, the Beloit Area Dental Clinic has experienced a four month backlog for dental appointments. The federal funding would help renovate the clinic to add an additional 12 chairs and provide dental hygiene training for Blackhawk Technical College students. Dental care is a critical part of health care and controlling health costs. Without this funding, hundreds of patients will forgo necessary treatments.

Although individual appropriations measures were not enacted by the 109th Congress, the Appropriations Committees provided ample insight as to their expectations. This was certainly the case with this Wisconsin priority and I encourage you to appropriately recognize and act on those recommendations.

Sincerely,


Herb Kohl
U.S. Senator

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health Resources and Services
Administration

MAR 29 2007

Rockville MD 20857

The Honorable Herb Kohl
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Kohl:

Thank you for your letter of March 7 expressing your support of providing funds for the Beloit Area Dental Clinic. Secretary Leavitt has asked me to respond directly to you on his behalf. The Agency is grateful for projects that seek to address dental health care for the uninsured and underinsured.

I regret that the fiscal year 2007 Continuing Appropriations Resolution does not include funds for earmarks as stated in Public Law 110-5, H. J. Res. 20.

I look forward to continued work with you during the current session of Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth M. Duke".

Elizabeth M. Duke
Administrator