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TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT:
RULES (CHAIRMAN)

February 7, 2006

The Honorable Mike Leavitt, Secretary
US Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 615F
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

I would like to applaud you, Mr. Secretary, HHS and the FDA for efforts to simplify the often complicated and incomprehensible language in package inserts that Virginia patients receive with their prescription medications. The language is not only much more consumer friendly, it will, I'm told, significantly decrease the incidence of medical errors associated with prescription medications.

I would also like to commend HHS and the FDA for providing much-needed liability relief to practicing family physicians, especially in states like Virginia, where professional liability rates have skyrocketed, forcing some of our physicians to retire early or even move to other states.

Once again, let me applaud you for addressing these issues.

Sincerely,

W. J. Howell

William J. Howell

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