



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

MAR 31 2006

American Public Health Association
800 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001-3710

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to acknowledge the American Public Health Association on the occasion of National Public Health Week, April 3-9, 2006.

As Secretary for the government's principle agency for the protection of the health and well-being of all Americans, I applaud the focus of this year's National Public Health Week: "*Designing Healthy Communities: Raising Healthy Kids*". As you know the rate of overweight and obesity of children in the United States is on the rise. Understanding the role of the built environment on children's health is one of the many keys to solving this growing public health crisis.

I commend the American Public Health Association for promoting National Public Health Week. Together, we can help young Americans grow up strong, healthy and fit.

Sincerely,



Michael O. Leavitt