



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

September 19, 2012

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Landrieu:

Thank you for your letter to President Obama, cosigned by twenty-one of your colleagues, urging the Administration to finalize updated fish consumption advice to pregnant women. The Administration shares your interest in ensuring that pregnant women have sound, science-driven recommendations that are clearly understandable and enable them to make informed decisions about their diets.

Although we have not been able to issue the revised advisory as soon as we would have liked, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has made significant progress, working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), since our latest communication with the Congress on this matter. In addition to the revised advisory, FDA and EPA are also working closely to craft supplemental materials that will provide additional, plain language insights to consumers about fish consumption during pregnancy.

Let me assure you that completing the updated advisory remains a priority for the Administration. Following issuance of the updated advice in draft form for public comment, we intend to obtain review by the FDA Advisory Committee on Risk Communication and hold a series of public meetings to obtain additional public input.

I assure you that your interest on this important matter parallels our own. Thank you again for urging the finalization of documents related to this important public health issue. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Jim Esquea, Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the Department of Health and Human Services, at (202) 690-7627. I will also provide this response to the Senators who cosigned your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kathleen Sebelius



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

September 19, 2012

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Chambliss:

Thank you for your letter to President Obama, cosigned by twenty-one of your colleagues, urging the Administration to finalize updated fish consumption advice to pregnant women. The Administration shares your interest in ensuring that pregnant women have sound, science-driven recommendations that are clearly understandable and enable them to make informed decisions about their diets.

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September 19, 2012

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your letter to President Obama, cosigned by twenty-one of your colleagues, urging the Administration to finalize updated fish consumption advice to pregnant women. The Administration shares your interest in ensuring that pregnant women have sound, science-driven recommendations that are clearly understandable and enable them to make informed decisions about their diets.

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September 19, 2012

The Honorable Scott Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your letter to President Obama, cosigned by twenty-one of your colleagues, urging the Administration to finalize updated fish consumption advice to pregnant women. The Administration shares your interest in ensuring that pregnant women have sound, science-driven recommendations that are clearly understandable and enable them to make informed decisions about their diets.

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September 19, 2012

The Honorable Mark Begich
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Begich:

Thank you for your letter to President Obama, cosigned by twenty-one of your colleagues, urging the Administration to finalize updated fish consumption advice to pregnant women. The Administration shares your interest in ensuring that pregnant women have sound, science-driven recommendations that are clearly understandable and enable them to make informed decisions about their diets.

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The Honorable Johnny Isakson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Isakson:

Thank you for your letter to President Obama, cosigned by twenty-one of your colleagues, urging the Administration to finalize updated fish consumption advice to pregnant women. The Administration shares your interest in ensuring that pregnant women have sound, science-driven recommendations that are clearly understandable and enable them to make informed decisions about their diets.

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The Honorable Christopher Coons
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Coons:

Thank you for your letter to President Obama, cosigned by twenty-one of your colleagues, urging the Administration to finalize updated fish consumption advice to pregnant women. The Administration shares your interest in ensuring that pregnant women have sound, science-driven recommendations that are clearly understandable and enable them to make informed decisions about their diets.

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The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

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The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Thune:

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September 19, 2012

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Mikulski:

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The Honorable David Vitter
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Vitter:

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THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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September 19, 2012

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Shaheen:

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The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Murray:

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The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Rubio:

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THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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September 19, 2012

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

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THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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September 19, 2012

The Honorable Robert Casey, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Casey:

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The Honorable Olympia Snowe
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Snowe:

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The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Murkowski:

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The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Cantwell:

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The Honorable Frank Lautenberg
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Lautenberg:

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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1804

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter to President Obama, cosigned by twenty-one of your colleagues, urging the Administration to finalize updated fish consumption advice to pregnant women. The Administration shares your interest in ensuring that pregnant women have sound, science-driven recommendations that are clearly understandable and enable them to make informed decisions about their diets.

Although we have not been able to issue the revised advisory as soon as we would have liked, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has made significant progress, working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), since our latest communication with the Congress on this matter. In addition to the revised advisory, FDA and EPA are also working closely to craft supplemental materials that will provide additional, plain language insights to consumers about fish consumption during pregnancy.

Let me assure you that completing the updated advisory remains a priority for the Administration. Following issuance of the updated advice in draft form for public comment, we intend to obtain review by the FDA Advisory Committee on Risk Communication and hold a series of public meetings to obtain additional public input.

I assure you that your interest on this important matter parallels our own. Thank you again for urging the finalization of documents related to this important public health issue. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact Jim Esquea, Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the Department of Health and Human Services, at (202) 690-7627. I will also provide this response to the Senators who cosigned your letter.

Sincerely,

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

Kathleen Sebelius