

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter from Tommy Thompson

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In my years at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, we have made tremendous progress in our efforts to improve the health, safety, and well-being of the American people. The Department's recent *Steps to a HealthierUS* initiative aims to help Americans live longer, better, and healthier lives by reducing the burden of diabetes, overweight, obesity, asthma, heart disease and stroke, and cancer and addresses three related factors — physical inactivity, poor nutrition, and tobacco use. There are many issues that challenge us and demand our best efforts in public health. I commend the staff of *Preventing Chronic Disease: Public Health Research, Practice, and Policy* on producing a journal that reaches a broad public health audience and presents research in electronic form on the Web, available free to the public. Its interdisciplinary coverage of topics provides a crucial resource to assist the public health community at all levels in solving one of our most challenging health crises.

Tommy G. Thompson
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services