



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

June 7, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. ~~Secretary~~: *Ray,*

Thank you for your letter inviting the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support a new Veterans' Transportation and Community Living Initiative, proposed under the auspices of the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM). I commend you for undertaking this important effort to support persons with significant disabilities, as well as veterans and military families seeking full and successful participation in their communities. In addition to serving the vital needs of veterans and military families, this proposal has the potential to dovetail nicely with important HHS initiatives. In June 2009, HHS created the Community Living Initiative to promote federal partnerships that improve access to home and community-based services, including transportation. Through this initiative, we coordinate efforts and strategies across HHS agencies and with other Departments to increase opportunities for Americans with disabilities and older adults to enjoy meaningful community living.

Promoting access to transportation services for those with significant disabilities who are receiving home and community-based services enables this population to participate fully in their communities and to pursue economic self-sufficiency through employment. We look forward to contributing to this initiative by sharing our experience with service delivery models and collaborating with the Department of Transportation and the CCAM on program design and implementation to ensure that the models and systems adopted will meet the needs of all populations.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sebelius

Thanks for your leadership & good work.