



**TRUST FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH APPLAUDS CONFIRMATION OF HHS
SECRETARY LEAVITT**

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Washington, DC, January 26, 2005 – The following is a statement from Shelley A. Hearne, DrPH, Executive Director of Trust for America's Health (TFAH):

“Trust for America's Health (TFAH) applauds today's Senate confirmation of Michael Leavitt as the new Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We are enthusiastic about his strong track record on important public health initiatives, including disease prevention, pioneering environmental health efforts, diminishing health disparities among *all* communities, and improving children's health.

At a time when public health issues, from bioterrorism preparedness to curbing obesity to natural disaster aftermath relief efforts, are so high on the national agenda, it is reassuring to have someone with Secretary Leavitt's experience and leadership abilities taking the helm at HHS.

We would like to congratulate Secretary Leavitt and look forward to the opportunity to work with him on behalf of the health and safety of all Americans.

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Trust for America's Health is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to saving lives by protecting the health of every community and working to make disease prevention a national priority. www.healthyamericans.org