



TRUST FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH BOARD SELECTS JEFFREY LEVI AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Washington, DC, February 13, 2006 – Governor Lowell Weicker, Jr., President of the Board of Trust for America's Health (TFAH), today announced the selection of Jeffrey Levi, PhD, as TFAH's new Executive Director, effective March 31. Levi will succeed Shelley A. Hearne, DrPH, who founded the organization five years ago and will be teaching at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"After completing a comprehensive search process, the Board is extremely pleased to have someone of Dr. Levi's caliber taking the helm as TFAH's Executive Director," said Weicker. "His unique combination of health policy and advocacy expertise is a perfect match for TFAH's bold mission to improve the health of all Americans."

"Under Shelley Hearne's leadership, TFAH has become a powerful leader at the forefront of the fight for better public health in this country," Weicker added.

"Dr. Levi is the right leader to bring TFAH to the next level," Hearne said. "He will ensure that TFAH will continue to be seen as a valued, independent resource across the political spectrum on issues vital to our nation's health."

Levi joined TFAH as Senior Policy Advisor in May 2005, leading the development of TFAH's public policy agenda. In the past year, TFAH's top advocacy initiatives included pandemic flu preparedness, bioterrorism and health emergency preparedness, clarifying and improving U.S. obesity policies, and bolstering the search for causes and cures for developmental disabilities.

"Public health has worked under the political radar screen for too long," said Dr. Levi. "Faced with such critical issues as pandemic flu preparedness and the rising rates of obesity, public health must become a serious national priority for policy makers and the American public. What thrills me about becoming executive director of TFAH is that I know I am working with a board of directors and a staff that agrees that the stakes are too high to accept the status quo."

Levi also serves as an Associate Professor within the Department of Health Policy of George Washington University (GWU) School of Public Health and Health Services. His research focuses on issues related to HIV/AIDS, Medicaid, and ways to better integrate public health with the healthcare delivery system. Dr. Levi will maintain his academic affiliation with George Washington.

"GWU and TFAH share a strong commitment to advocating for changes that could make a major difference to the nation's health," said Ruth Katz, JD, MPH, Dean of the GWU School of Public Health and Health Services, who is also a member of TFAH's Advisory Council. "Dr. Levi brings proven experience as a leading health expert to his new role."

Levi has served as an associate editor of the *American Journal of Public Health* and Deputy Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, and he has held government affairs and program development roles with the AIDS Action Council/AIDS Action Foundation and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. He is a leading national expert on HIV policy issues.

Levi received a BA from Oberlin College, an MA from Cornell University, and a PhD from The George Washington University.

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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.
