

APR 28 2009

TO: The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius,
Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

FROM: Salutaris: NIH Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Employees'
Forum (Salutaris); and

FDA Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual and Transgender Employees (FDA
GLOBE)

We congratulate you on your Senate confirmation and we look forward to working with you to improve the health and welfare of the American public.

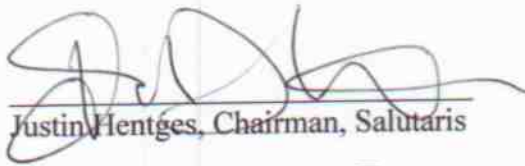
We know how busy you must be, so this letter will briefly address our concerns. We would like to work with you to fulfill President Obama's civil rights agenda:
http://change.gov/agenda/civil_rights_agenda/

Some of the areas on which we would like to initially focus include:

- Establish a single Department-wide non-discrimination policy expanding on former Secretary Shalala's December 6, 1993, memorandum "A Special Message for All HHS Employees" <http://www.fedglobe.org/issues/hhspolicy.htm>;
- Create equity with other cultural employee groups through the establishment of a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) Special Emphasis Program Manager (SEPM) in each Operating Division that currently has SEPMS;
- Initiate a comprehensive review of all Department and Operating Division regulations, policies and practices to insure GLBT staff are treated equitably;
- Initiate a comprehensive review of all extramural and grant programs to insure federal dollars do not support discrimination against the GLBT communities; and
- Support research into health disparities and the special needs of GLBT populations.

We are ready to support and work with you to insure your success in guaranteeing that all HHS employees, patients, and customers are treated with equity and respect. We look forward to meeting with you at your earliest convenience to create a comprehensive plan to achieve these goals.

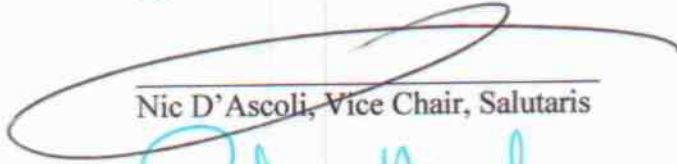
Respectfully,



Justin Hentges, Chairman, Salutaris



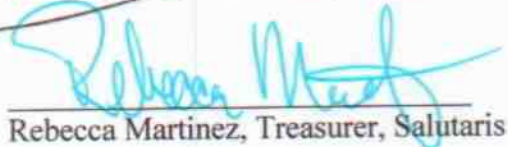
Linda Amendt, Co-Chair, FDA Globe



Nic D'Ascoli, Vice Chair, Salutaris



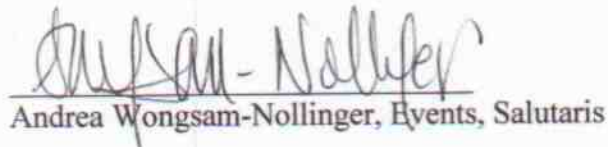
Richard Klein, Co-Chair, FDA Globe



Rebecca Martinez, Treasurer, Salutaris



Tam Sneddon, Communications, Salutaris



Andrea Wongsam-Nollinger, Events, Salutaris

CC:

Raynard S. Kington,
M.D., Ph.D, NIH Director (Acting)

Lawrence N. Self,
Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management

Joshua Sharfstein,
M.D., Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration (Acting)

Debra Chew,
JD, Director, FDA, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management (Acting)

Segundo Pereira,
Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management and Principal Deputy
Assistant Secretary & Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management