

July 1, 2010

Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA
Surgeon General of the United States
Office of the Surgeon General
5600 Fishers Lane
Room 18-66
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: Recommendation for appointment to Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health

Dear Dr. Benjamin:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I am writing to urge the appointment of Herminia Palacio, MD, MPH to the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health. Dr. Palacio is a licensed physician with expertise in community services. She meets the statutory requirements for membership on the Advisory Group and would bring great experience and knowledge in prevention and public health practice at the community level to the Advisory Group. Dr. Palacio's *curriculum vitae* is attached.

Dr. Palacio is the Executive Director of Harris County (Texas) Public Health and Environmental Services, the county health department responsible for promoting healthy communities, preventing illness and injury, and protecting the health of a population of about 1.9 million people in 30 municipalities and the unincorporated areas of Harris County. She has served Harris County since 2003 and is also an Adjunct Professor in Management, Policy and Community Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health at Houston.

Dr. Palacio is an outstanding, respected and thoughtful leader in her state and at the national level as a member of NACCHO's Board of Directors. She is also a teacher and researcher with a solid record in publishing peer-reviewed research. Her range of experience in all aspects of public health practice, as well as medical practice and scholarship, would enable her to contribute in a highly informed manner to the development of policy and program recommendations to the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council.

NACCHO's Board of Directors joins me in strongly recommending Dr. Palacio for membership on the Advisory Council.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Pestronk
Executive Director

