



Office of the Assistant Secretary for  
Preparedness & Response

National Biodefense Science Board  
Washington, D.C. 20201

March 26, 2008

The Honorable Michael O. Leavitt  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington,, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

The Disaster Medicine Working Group (DM-WG) of the National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB) was asked to review and comment on the draft charter for the Federal Education and Training Interagency Group (FETIG).

The DM-WG would like to thank the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for actively soliciting input from the NBSB and the DM-WG. The early engagement of the NBSB is a clear sign that HHS is interested in engaging stakeholders in the development of public health and medical disaster preparedness and response core curricula, training, and education.

In general, the Charter is a reasonable initial step in the process of the U.S government's efforts in the development of public health and medical disaster preparedness and response core curricula, training, and education. We share HHS's sense of urgency related to this initiative and encourage other departments to expeditiously sign the Charter.

In our review of the draft Charter three general areas raised concerns for the DM-WG. Our recommendations are listed below.

1. The DM-WG believes the current charge of the FETIG, with its broad focus on Public Health and Medical Disaster Preparedness and Response is overly broad.

The DM-WG recommends the FETIG charter be focused on Disaster Medicine, and aspects of Public Health that are related to Disaster Preparedness.

