

**STATEMENT BY DR. TEVI TROY
NOMINEE FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
July 18, 2007**

Mr. Chairman, Senator Grassley, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for inviting me to appear before you today as the nominee for Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services. I appreciate your scheduling this hearing during this busy time. I would also like to thank the members of the Committee for meeting with me earlier this month. I found our conversations informative and helpful, and appreciate your commitment to the health and public service mission of this Department.

Before I begin my remarks, I would like to take a moment to introduce my family.

Mr. Chairman, I am honored and humbled that the President has chosen to nominate me for this important position. I am grateful to the President and to Secretary Leavitt for their trust and confidence, and for this opportunity to continue to serve our country. If I am confirmed, you may be assured that I will work to fulfill this trust on behalf of the American people.

Mr. Chairman, I have a written statement that I would ask be included in the record, but would just like to share a few things now about my background and my understanding of the HHS mission and the important role of the Deputy Secretary.

I was born and raised in New York City. My mother and father were teachers with a lifelong commitment to public service. As teachers, they instilled in me a love for learning and for sharing knowledge. I have been lucky enough to follow in my parents' footsteps and spend my career in public service.

I began my career as a Ph.D. candidate in American Civilization at the University of Texas. During that time, I taught students and authored a book on the American Presidency that analyzed the different ways that Presidents identified and implemented new ideas, and interacted with those in academia, public policy, politics and the media.

Although I enjoyed teaching and writing, I did not find life in academia to be fully satisfying. Simply put, I wanted to do more; I wanted to do my part to make things better for all Americans. I credit my parents and my upbringing with giving me an abiding belief in the importance of public service: to your country, to your family, to your fellow man.

So I decided to come to Washington, where I learned first-hand how ideas are translated into action. I have been fortunate enough to have worked in the House, the Senate, the Department of Labor, and the White House. These experiences not only helped prepare me for the position for which I have been nominated, but instilled in me a tremendous respect for our system of government, including the important role Congress plays.

When I was nominated to be Deputy Secretary, my Rabbi sent me a letter reminding me of the importance of the Jewish concept of “Tikkun Olam” or “repairing the world.” He said that this appointment would give me the opportunity to practice *tikkun olam* on a grand scale. I’ve thought about his comment a lot recently in the context of the Department of Health and Human Services and its mission.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) touches the lives of every American, from the elderly and infirm to the young and healthy. HHS has improved the lives of millions of Americans and it plays a critical role in helping America meet its obligation to help take care of the poor, the disabled, and the elderly. It reaches out to more than 40 million low-income and disabled Americans with Medicaid and it serves millions with our nationwide network of Community Health Centers. HHS also helps provide persons of low income with energy to heat their homes, give disadvantaged children an early start in education, and prepare for medical emergencies including possible terrorist acts.

Within this important agency, the Deputy Secretary is responsible for overseeing policy development for all initiatives and programs. The Deputy also serves as the Regulatory Policy Officer for HHS, overseeing the development and approval of regulations and significant guidance.

The next Deputy Secretary will have the privilege of working closely with Secretary Mike Leavitt and the dedicated professionals at HHS to advance the Department’s mission. I have enjoyed working with the Secretary over the last few years during my tenure at the White House – most recently on the HealthierUS Initiative to prevent disease, improve physical fitness, and promote community health and wellness. Secretary Leavitt is an innovative thinker and former governor who is driven by a desire to ensure we find the best ways to promote the health of all Americans.

Each of my public service experiences has reinforced my belief that one voice and one person’s actions can make a difference. Inherent in the concept of *tikkun olam* is the simple truth that our individual responsibilities to repair the world can be combined to change the world for every one of God’s creatures.

When I return home from work each day and see my wife and our four children, I walk in the door knowing I have a responsibility to build a better world for the next generation. By working together, by using the powers of government, and by improving the service of the Department of Health and Human Services, I believe I can do my part to assist HHS in its important mission and help improve the health and well-being of all Americans and the generations to come.

Thank you again for the opportunity to be here, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to answering your questions.