



June 25, 2010

GAO Health Care
Attention: National Health Care Workforce
Commission Nominations
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548
HCWorkforce@gao.gov

Re: Recommendation for Appointment of Claude Earl Fox, MD, MPH to the National Health Care Workforce Commission

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), and the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) join in recommending strongly the appointment of Claude Earl Fox, MD, MPH, to the National Health Care Workforce Commission.

Dr. Fox, a public health physician by training, is a health care workforce expert and has been a public health leader at the local, state, and national levels. Prior to becoming founding director of the Florida Public Health Institute in 2006, Dr. Fox served as administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (1997-2001), HHS Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health (1995-1997), HHS Regional Health Administrator (1993-1995), Alabama State Health Officer (1986-1992), Mississippi Deputy State Health Officer (1984-1986), Mississippi Health Services Bureau Chief (1980-1984), Mississippi Regional Health Officer (1975-1978), and as a Mississippi Local Health Officer (1973-1974). In addition, Dr. Fox has held numerous academic appointments and consulting positions in medicine and public health.

Throughout his nearly four decades of service in public health Dr. Fox has been at the forefront of addressing shortages of health care professionals, providing workforce training and education, and developing and implementing workforce policy at all levels of the governmental enterprise – federal, state, local, and tribal.

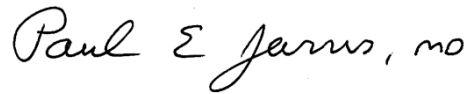
Dr. Fox has dealt firsthand with critical capacity and development issues affecting the full spectrum of healthcare workers, including community health workers and behavioral health, emergency medical services, and public health professionals. He thoroughly understands the impact shortages of health professionals have on access to health services and, ultimately, population health.

Dr. Fox serves as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Center for Excellence in Workforce Research and Policy and the Physician Workforce Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of the Florida Department of Health. He previously served on the Institute of Medicine's Public Health Workforce and Bio-terrorism Committee on Emerging Microbial Threats to Health in the 21st Century and as part of state forums concerning the nursing workforce, workforce diversity, energizing the workforce and the future health workforce.

Given his extensive background, we believe Dr. Fox exceeds the appointment qualifications stipulated in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and would provide superb service to the nation as a member of the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul E. Jarris, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Paul E. Jarris, MD, MBA
Executive Director
ASTHO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Pestronk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Robert Pestronk, MPH
Executive Director
NACCHO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph D. Kimbrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Joseph Kimbrell, MA, LCSW
Chief Executive Officer
NNPHI