



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

JUN 02 2015

The Honorable David Vitter
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Vitter:

Thank you for your letter regarding the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations on breast cancer screening. We share your strong commitment to supporting women's health and prevention, and agree that mammography is an important tool in the fight against breast cancer.

As you know, the USPSTF is an independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention that makes evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) provides ongoing administrative, research, technical, and dissemination support to the USPSTF. As an independent panel of non-federal experts, the USPSTF's recommendations are determined by the members of the panel, not AHRQ or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

I have shared your letter with the USPSTF so they have it as they consider the comments they received from the public on their draft recommendation statement and as they work to develop a final recommendation.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to improve women's health. If you should have any additional comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.M.B.", written over a horizontal line.

Sylvia M. Burwell