HEALTH MUSEUM LETTER to Sec. THOMPSON

the United States

ngton, DC 20515

:ober 16, 2003

The Honorable Tommy Thompson
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On October 7, 2003, you announced a federal grant of $1 million for a National Health Museum to be located in Washington, D.C. The funding, you noted, will come in equal parts from the CDC, FDA, NIH, and HRSA. Mr. Secretary, we are concerned that limited federal resources are being provided to a private museum when there are so many other pressing priorities, including providing medical care for AIDS patients, approving life-saving drugs, and developing measures to counter bioterrorism.

1) Given the many other pressing health needs of our nation, can you please provide us with your rationale for awarding this funding?
2) What other museums are funded by HHS and how much FY02 and FY03 funding has been allocated to each?
3) Please provide us with the grant application from the National Health Museum, and/or any other documents (including electronic communication) related to this entity's request for federal funds.
4) Please provide us with any HHS documents (including electronic communication) related to the disbursement of these funds, including what the $1 million may be spent on and any guidance or restrictions placed upon use of these funds.
5) Please provide us with documentation detailing the accounts in the HHS budget from which these funds are coming.
6) Please notify Congress prior to any future disbursement to the National Health Museum.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tom Feeney

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Bob Beaupuy

Chris Chu

J B Offensen

W. Codel Alvin

Jim Gutknecht

Marilyn Musgrave

Kevin Brady

Jim DeMint

Mark Souder

Robert Brandt