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October 28, 2008

Lisa Paxton
CEO
Brainerd Lakes Chamber
PO Box 356
Brainerd, MN 56401

Dear Ms. Paxton,

I would like to thank you for the contributions you made to the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services' site visit to Cuyuna Regional Medical Center. We appreciate that you took the time to meet with us to discuss the workforce needs in your region and the efforts you are making to meet those needs.

Your presentation on the Bridges Workplace Connection program provided the Committee with an in-depth look at how you and your colleagues were able to develop partnerships between local educators and business leaders to provide career opportunities for local high school students. The combination of Career Exploration Days, on-the-job shadowing and summer internships, as well as the college credits that students are able to earn, are invaluable experiences as students decide which career fields they should and should not pursue. We found it particularly encouraging that you have provided workplace connections for students to experience the local health care environment. The Committee values your insights and will utilize the information that you shared to inform the 2009 Report to the Secretary.

If you have any questions or would like to present additional information to the Committee, please feel free to contact ORHP staff at (301) 443-0835.

Sincerely,

The Honorable David M. Beasley
Chair