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March 30, 2011

Bertram A. Yaffe
Chair, NECON
President, Erna Yaffe Foundation
2 Regency Plaza, Suite 912
Providence, R.I. 02903

Dear Mr. Yaffe:

I regret that I am unable to attend your conference, "Health Literacy for All: Moving Forward." The theme of your conference serves as a reminder that we have a lot of work to do in advancing the health of communities beyond providing insurance. As you know, proper nutrition, physical activity, tobacco-free environments and mental health counseling are critical components of public health efforts to improve health outcomes regardless of one's socio-economic background.

It is clear health literacy is integral not only to the success of public health prevention efforts but also to ensuring good access to appropriate care. That is why I have fought for funding both for the expansion of the Community Health Centers Program and for the Prevention and Public Health Fund in health reform. I believe Community Health Centers are ideal partners in increasing health literacy, which in turn is essential for effective disease prevention efforts. I look forward to working with you to achieve these interdependent goals.

I applaud your commitment to this worthy endeavor and thank you for all that you do to make our society a better and healthier place to live. Best wishes for a great conference.

Sincerely,



BERNARD SANDERS
United States Senator