



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor

Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

January 13, 2012

Dear Members of the DHHS Team:

One of the greatest honors ever given to me has been the honor to serve the State as the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. During the past three years, and what may well be the most difficult budgetary time the State has ever experienced, the dedication and hard work of the DHHS team has been demonstrated as we have labored together to ensure that the people of North Carolina continue to have access to the critical services important to their health and well being.

I believe the Governor can be proud that over the past three years, working together, we have made very positive progress in the health and human services arena even though we have faced significant budget reductions and pressures. With DHHS Excels we have begun a real transformation of the Department from a collection of uncoordinated silos of services to an integrated system of services focused on achieving positive outcomes, new independence, and improved lives for the people we serve. We have begun a transformation of our state healthcare facilities from independent organizations struggling with reports of abuse and neglect of patients to a real system of care, recognizing a continual reduction in reports of abuse and neglect, enhancing our training of staff to improve patient care, and implementing a system of real financial accountability.

Although faced with continued budget reductions, we have maintained access to critical services in the State's Medicaid program, working with our CCNC partners and others to increase both clinical and cost effectiveness. We have strengthened our program integrity efforts to help ensure that taxpayers' dollars are spent appropriately and achieving the greatest results. We have turned the corner on mental health system reform and begun a real stabilization and strengthening of the system. We can all be proud of these and many other DHHS accomplishments that have been made during the first three years of this administration.

But after much thought and consideration, I have come to the conclusion that it is time for me to step down as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. I make this decision with regret because I have enjoyed being the leader of the DHHS team, I am proud of the progress our great team has made over the past three years, and I remain strongly committed to the important mission of this department and the people we serve.

Despite all the political rhetoric you may have heard or read, I will depart knowing that the Department of Health and Human Services has enhanced its ability to meet the needs of North Carolina residents in a more effective and efficient manner. It is for personal reasons I need to step away from the considerable demands of the position of Secretary and expect to complete my official responsibilities at DHHS on January 31, 2012.



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Although I have tendered my letter of resignation to Governor Perdue, I want you to know how much I sincerely appreciate the opportunity and honor the Governor has given to me, allowing me to serve the State in such an important capacity, and how much I will always appreciate your dedication and hard work serving North Carolina. I will be looking for other opportunities to engage in efforts to improve the health and welfare of the people of our great State.

Thank you for all you do for North Carolina. Please keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lanier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a trailing flourish.

Lanier M. Cansler