

# SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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## **UT SOUTHWESTERN PRESIDENT NAMED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

DALLAS – Dec. 28, 2001 – UT Southwestern President Dr. Kern Wildenthal has been appointed to a committee that will advise Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson on health-care regulatory reform issues.

Wildenthal is among 27 appointees to the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Regulatory Reform. The appointees – including consumers, doctors and other health-care professionals – are charged with helping Thompson identify and change health-care regulations that hinder delivery of care more than they improve quality of care.

“Regulatory reform can eliminate inefficiencies in our health-care system that waste billions of dollars and divert medical providers from their primary responsibility of taking care of people,” Wildenthal said. “We are fortunate that Secretary Thompson and the Bush administration are seriously and aggressively addressing this problem, and I will be pleased to help in their efforts.”

The committee's efforts will focus particularly on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Food and Drug Administration, the HHS agencies that have the greatest regulatory responsibilities. Dr. Douglas L. Wood, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and a member of the CMS Practicing Physicians Advisory Council and the Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee in Minnesota, will chair the committee. The first meeting is scheduled for Jan. 7 in Washington, and committee members will hold field hearings nationwide to get input from doctors, patients, health-care providers and businesses.

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