

## **The Role of the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health**

The Secretary of Health is a cabinet-level position. The Secretary is the top health regulator in Pennsylvania and serves as a liaison to the Governor for the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

He/she is responsible for carrying out the department's mission to promote healthy lifestyles, prevent injury and disease and assure the safe delivery of quality health care for all Pennsylvanians. The Secretary is charged with working collaboratively with public and private partners to promote prevention and wellness and establish preparedness in pursuit of the optimal health of all Pennsylvanians and the retention of the critical individuals who provide care to our citizens.

He/she sets overall policy and direction; defines the department's mission; establishes strategic goals; outlines specific objectives; prepares annual budgets for submission to the Governor; identifies priorities and accountability in fiscal matters; proposes initiatives to further department objectives; and represents the department and the administration before other state agencies, the Legislature, professional organizations, the health industry, community and stakeholder groups, consumers and the general public.