

# SUPPORT THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S STUDY

April 3, 2008

Hon. Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. James Walsh  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Specter, Chairman Obey, and Ranking Member Walsh:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request that you provide FY2009 funding of \$192.3 million for the National Children's Study (NCS) within the National Institutes of Health Office of the Director. This funding will allow for awarding the final group of study centers and continued recruitment of study participants.

As you know, the National Children's Study is the largest and most comprehensive study of children's health and development ever planned in the United States. This study will follow a representative sample of 100,000 children from across the United States from before birth until age 21. It will examine the potential impacts of a broad range of environmental influences (physical, chemical, biological and social) in order to identify the root causes of many childhood diseases and conditions, including preterm birth, asthma, obesity, heart disease, injury and diabetes.

We applaud and appreciate the \$110.9 million appropriated for this study in the FY08 Consolidated Appropriations Act. While we recognize that federal resources are extremely constrained, we feel it is crucial that Congress fully fund the next phase of the National Children's Study and thereby continue to demonstrate its' commitment to this extremely valuable research and to America's children.

Thank you again for your continued support of child and adolescent health research.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
American Chemistry Council  
American Heart Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Psychological Association  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Brown University  
Children's Environmental Health Institute  
Cooley's Anemia Foundation  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Easter Seals  
First Focus  
FRAXA Research Foundation  
Genetic Alliance  
Healthy Schools Network  
Jeffrey Modell Foundation  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
Learning Disabilities Association of California  
March of Dimes Foundation  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
National Catholic Rural Life Conference  
National Council of Catholic Women  
New Jersey Environmental Federation  
Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives  
Population Association of America/ Association of Population Centers  
Reproductive Health Technologies Project  
RESULTS  
Society for Pediatric Research  
The Arc of the United States  
United Cerebral Palsy  
University of Minnesota School of Public Health  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops