



July 8, 2009

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-218 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Chairman Obey:

The American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) urges you to include \$194.4 million in the fiscal year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill to fund the ongoing National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Children's Study. This study will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children, thus resulting in significant advances in pediatric care.

According to NIH:

"The National Children's Study will be one of the richest information resources available for answering questions related to children's health and development and will form the basis of child health guidance, interventions, and policy for generations to come."

These advances will only occur, however, if Congress provides the funding needed to keep this project moving forward. We believe the short and long-term gains in children's health will far exceed the amount of money needed for this study. We look forward to working with you on this most important issue.

By way of background, AACC is the principal association of professional laboratory scientists--including MDs, PhDs and medical technologists. AACC's members develop and use chemical concepts, procedures, techniques and instrumentation in health-related investigations and work in hospitals, independent laboratories and the diagnostics industry worldwide. The AACC provides international leadership in advancing the practice and profession of clinical laboratory science and its application to health care. If you have any questions, please call me at (504) 568-4281, or Vince Stine, PhD, Director, Government Affairs, at (202) 835-8721.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Goldsmith", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Barbara Goldsmith, PhD
President, AACC