



February 28, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
S-128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye:

The American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) urges you to include \$193.9 million in the fiscal year (FY) 2013 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 funding level is the same as FY'12. AACC is concerned that the Administration's proposed 15 percent decrease in funding will undermine this critical study.

We believe this long term study, which will examine the effects of environmental influences on the health and development of more than 100,000 children, will result in significant advances in pediatric care.

According to the 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. Thus, we urge you to oppose any cuts in this invaluable initiative. 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 (804) 828-0375, or Vince Stine, PhD, Director, Government Affairs, at (202) 835-8721.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Miller", is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Greg Miller, PhD
President, AACC