



July 30, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515-6015

Dear Chairman Rogers:

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 (NCS). This funding level is the same as FY'12. AACC opposes the Administration's proposed 15 percent cut in funding for the NCS.

Although we appreciate the subcommittee's decision to increase funding to \$175 billion, we are concerned that any cuts in this long-term study may slow down its progress and affect the reliability of its data. 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.

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 "Greg Miller", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Greg Miller, PhD
President, AACC