



May 7, 2013

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chair, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Room S 128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski:

The American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) urges you to include \$165 million in the fiscal year (FY) 2014 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 consistent with the Administration's FY' 14 budget request.

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. AACC looks forward to working with you on this most important issue.

By way of background, AACC is the principal association of professional laboratorians--including MDs, PhDs and medical technologists. AACC's members develop and use chemical concepts, procedures, techniques and instrumentation in health-related investigations and practice 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 medicine and its applications to health care. If you have any questions, please call me at (410) 328-8672, or Vince Stine, PhD, Director, Government Affairs, at (202) 835-8721.

Sincerely,

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

Robert Christenson, PhD, DABCC, FACB
President, AACC