

# MUSC

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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July 27, 1998

Honorable Carol M. Browner  
Administrator  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M. Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Browner:

At its July meeting, the Science and Research workgroup of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee was briefed by Dr. Chris Saint of the Office of Research and Development. At the meeting, he enlisted the support of the Committee in identifying priorities in the funding of research that supported efforts to better protect children's health from environmental hazards. The Committee is very appreciative of this willingness to enlist the support of the group and to value its advice.

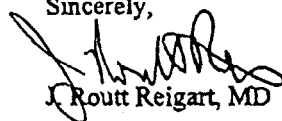
In the discussion of research for children, the committee articulated several principles that could serve to enhance the overall success of research for children. The Committee strongly supported increased efforts for child oriented research. To this end it felt that setting a goal for research funding that represented an understanding of the importance of our children was worthwhile. Recognizing that children are about 20% of our population (and 100% of our future), the Committee reached a strong consensus that an initial target of 20% of research funding should be specifically directed to the protection of children. The Committee chose to not specify that this should be in the FY 1999 or 2000 budget, but feels that it is important to work as quickly as possible towards reaching this level of funding.

In addition to this quantitative effort, the Committee also strongly supports a qualitative effort analogous to that being implemented by the National Institutes of Health. Effective October 1998, all clinical research funded by NIH must include children as subjects, unless the research meets certain specific exclusion criteria. (NIH Policy on the Inclusion of Children as Participants in Research Involving Human Subjects: *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts*, March 1998) All peer-reviewed submissions will be rated for the inclusion of children as well as their gender and minority representation. The Committee strongly supports USEPA adopting a similar policy for any clinical research that it chooses to fund.

I have appended the actual resolutions adopted by unanimous consensus by the Committee.

Thank you for your continued support of the Committee and your continued efforts to improve the health and welfare of our children.

Sincerely,



J. Rount Reigart, MD

**RESOLUTION**  
**CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**8 July 1998**

It is the sense of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee that EPA move as quickly as possible toward allocating an appropriate percentage of its research budget to research on the environmental health of children, setting as a minimum the percentage of children in the nation's population.

Further, the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee encourages EPA to adopt a policy, similar to that of NIH, which requires all clinical research to include children unless there is a sound, explicitly articulated justification not to do so.