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March 28, 2001

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 29460

Dear Administrator Whitman:

The Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) is delighted to hear of your interest in improving the health of children by ensuring that actions of the United States Environmental Protection Agency take into account the special needs and susceptibilities of children to environmental hazards. We look forward to working with you in this endeavor. We would like to suggest a method by which you can improve the Agency's capacity to receive strong, useful advice through the Federal Advisory Process.

In the last several years, as the CHPAC has become better known in the Agency, there have been an increasing number of requests for members of the CHPAC to participate in the activities of other Advisory Committees at USEPA. While this increased interest in Children's Health is gratifying, there are several problems with these requests.

1. In general, these requests have involved a liaison role, which is ambiguous for the participant. As a guest at the meetings, such participants have no clear role definition.
2. Since the CHPAC functions by consensus, such a liaison participant can only express the CHPAC views in areas already discussed and decided by the CHPAC. The participant cannot offer CHPAC opinions on new or emerging issues. In such a situation, the participant can only offer his or her personal viewpoint on issues under discussion.
3. The CHPAC represents a considerable time and effort commitment by its volunteer members. Participation in the activities of other committees may overtax the capacity of our volunteers to assume such voluntary activities, as most have limited availability due to their primary professional responsibilities.

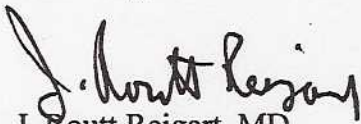
All of these concerns can be effectively addressed by specifically recruiting individuals with pediatric expertise as core members of USEPA Advisory Committees. The candidates for such membership should be well qualified and respected individuals who do not presently serve on other USEPA Advisory Committees.

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This would improve the breadth of expertise available to the Agency while not overtaxing persons already serving the Agency in advisory roles. Two Committees that would seem most likely to benefit would be the Science Advisory Board Executive Committee and the Office of Research and Development's Board of Scientific Counselors, but there are other committees that would benefit from increased pediatric expertise. The CHPAC and Office of Children's Health Protection would be delighted to assist in identifying suitable nominees for potential selection to these advisory positions.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to work with you to promote the health of our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Rount Reigart".

J. Rount Reigart, MD
Chair, Children's Health Protection
Advisory Committee

JRR/pc