



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 14 2004

OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Melanie A. Marty, Ph.D.  
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee  
Cal/EPA, Office of Environmental Health  
Hazard Assessment  
1515 Clay St., 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Dr. Marty:

Thank you for your June 8, 2004, letter to the Administrator regarding full Federal funding for the National Children's Study. In response to your letter, I am writing to let you know that we continue our support of the National Children's Study (NCS) and the role of the Office of Research and Development at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its planning and implementation. The NCS is an extremely important study for evaluating the long-term impact of environmental exposures on children's health. EPA has contributed to the planning and protocol development for the study, particularly in the areas of exposure assessment, the evaluation of exposure-outcome links and gene-environmental interactions, and the application of state-of-the-art technology for data collection and management.

We appreciate the ongoing support of the NCS by the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee and will continue to work with our partners in the Department of Health and Human Services toward launching the study in 2005. Full funding of the study will be necessary to keep to the intended timeline. Consistent with resource levels provided, EPA intends to continue its commitment to a base level of funding and staff time to work on the NCS. We also will support full funding of the study through the NIH.

The Administrator is also very supportive of the efforts by the Office of Research and Development staff regarding planning and implementation of the NCS. A staff briefing to bring Administrator Leavitt up to date is currently being scheduled, and we will encourage the scheduling of a meeting of the President's Task Force for the purposes of highlighting the importance of children's environmental health and to obtain broader support of Task Force members for full Federal funding of the NCS.

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Thanks again for your continued support, and we look forward to working with the Office of Children's Health Protection and the Advisory Committee in the future.

Sincerely,



Paul Gilman  
Assistant Administrator