January 8, 2007

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515  

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the undersigned members of the Catholic Coalition for Children and a Safe Environment, we write to express our support for an appropriation of $69 million in new funding for the continuation of the National Longitudinal Cohort Study of American Children (National Children’s Study), authorized in the Children’s Health Act of 2000.

We applaud the Senate and House Appropriations Committees for expressing their support for the continuation of the National Children’s Study, which will provide critical information about environmental links to diseases affecting children from before birth into adulthood, including such chronic conditions as asthma, diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases, and learning and other developmental disabilities.

As Catholics, we are called to participate in sustaining God’s creation by caring for our children and their physical environment. A mother’s womb is a child’s first environment; yet from conception, unborn children face a disproportionate threat to their development from exposures to toxins about which we know very little. Without information about how we can protect children, born and unborn, from environmental hazards, children’s future and their ability to fulfill their God-given potential will continue to be undermined.

As you meet in the new Congress, we ask you to stipulate in the FY07 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill that $69 million of the new funding provided to the National Institutes of Health, Office of the Director, is to be used to fund the National Children’s Study.
We thank you for your leadership in seeking to improve the health of future generations of Americans, particularly in the early and most critical stages of their development.

Sincerely,

Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.
Bishop of Brooklyn
Chairman, Domestic Policy Committee
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Rev. Larry Snyder
President of Catholic Charities USA

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC
President and CEO
Catholic Health Association of the United States

Kevin E. Lofton, FACHE
President and Chief Executive Officer
Catholic Health Initiatives

Shelly Schlenker
Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy
Catholic Healthcare West
Jerald D. Freewalt  
Chair, National Catholic Partnership on Disability

Brother David G. Andrews, CSC  
Executive Director  
National Catholic Rural Life Conference

Ms. Sheila McCarron  
Executive Director  
National Council of Catholic Women

cc: House Committee on Appropriations
January 8, 2007

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Congressman Lewis:

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Brother David G. Andrews, CSC
Executive Director
National Catholic Rural Life Conference

Ms. Sheila McCarron
Executive Director
National Council of Catholic Women

cc: House Committee on Appropriations
January 8, 2007

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC  20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the undersigned members of the Catholic Coalition for Children and a Safe Environment, we write to express our support for an appropriation of $69 million in new funding for the continuation of the National Longitudinal Cohort Study of American Children (National Children’s Study), authorized in the Children’s Health Act of 2000.

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Executive Director
National Council of Catholic Women

cc: Senate Committee on Appropriations
January 8, 2007

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
United States Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cochran:

On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the undersigned members of the Catholic Coalition for Children and a Safe Environment, we write to express our support for an appropriation of $69 million in new funding for the continuation of the National Longitudinal Cohort Study of American Children (National Children’s Study), authorized in the Children’s Health Act of 2000.

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