



*Department of Social Development and World Peace*

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • FAX 202-541-3339  
WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/SDWP

May 8, 2007

The Honorable David R. Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies  
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 \$110.9 million in *new* FY2008 funding for the National Children's Study within the National Institutes of Health, Office of the Director.

As you know, the National Children's Study 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. We applaud the Senate and House Appropriations Committees for expressing their support for the continuation of the National Children's Study in the FY2007 Joint Funding Resolution.

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, the future of our children and their ability to fulfill their God-given potential will continue to be undermined.

The Honorable David R. Obey  
May 8, 2007  
Page Two

We understand the challenges you face given limited federal resources. We appreciate 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,



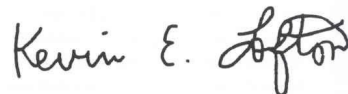
Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Brooklyn  
Chairman, Domestic Policy Committee  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



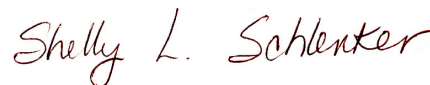
Rev. Larry Snyder  
President of Catholic Charities USA



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

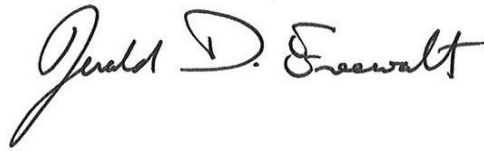


Kevin E. Lofton, FACHE  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Catholic Health Initiatives

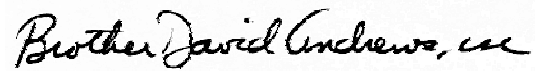


Shelly Schlenker  
Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy  
Catholic Healthcare West

The Honorable David R. Obey  
May 8, 2007  
Page Three



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: Senate Committee on Appropriations



*Department of Social Development and World Peace*

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • FAX 202-541-3339

WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/SDWP

May 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 \$110.9 million in *new* FY2008 funding for the National Children's Study within the National Institutes of Health, Office of the Director.

As you know, the National Children's Study 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. We applaud the Senate and House Appropriations Committees for expressing their support for the continuation of the National Children's Study in the FY2007 Joint Funding Resolution.

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, the future of our children and their ability to fulfill their God-given potential will continue to be undermined.

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
May 8, 2007  
Page Two

We understand the challenges you face given limited federal resources. We appreciate 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,



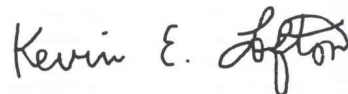
Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Brooklyn  
Chairman, Domestic Policy Committee  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



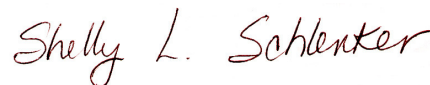
Rev. Larry Snyder  
President of Catholic Charities USA



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

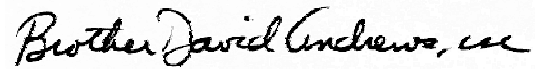


Shelly Schlenker  
Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy  
Catholic Healthcare West

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
May 8, 2007  
Page Three



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