



*Department of Social Development and World Peace*

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

WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/SDWP

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.

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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,



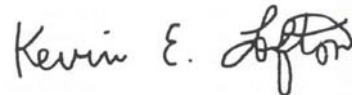
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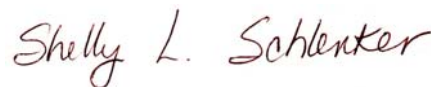
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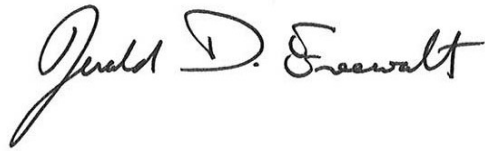


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President and Chief Executive Officer  
Catholic Health Initiatives




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

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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



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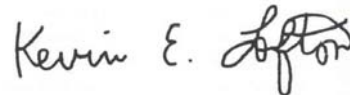
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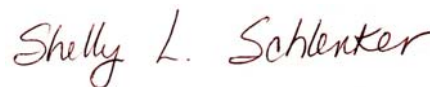
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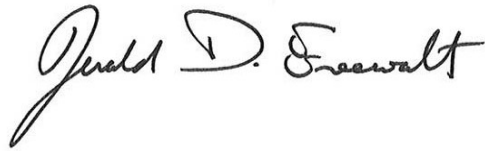


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United States Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

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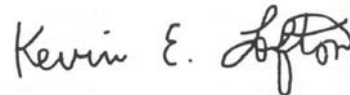
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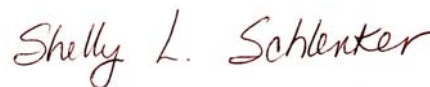
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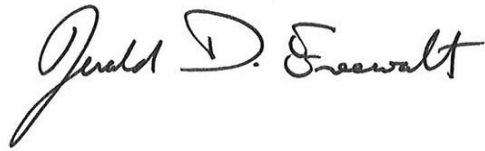
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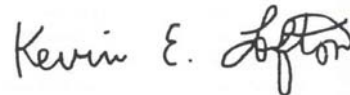
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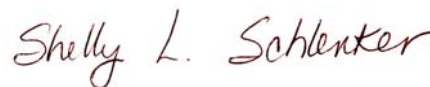
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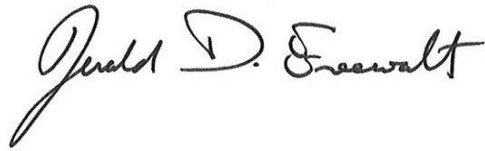


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