Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request that you provide FY2008 funding of $110.9 million for the National Children’s Study (NCS) within the National Institutes of Health Office of the Director. This funding will allow for the continued implementation of the NCS and bring us closer to the first results from this landmark study.

As you know, the National Children’s Study is the largest and most comprehensive study of children’s health and development ever planned in the United States. This study will follow a representative sample of 100,000 children from across the United States from before birth until age 21. It will examine the potential impacts of a broad range of environmental influences (physical, chemical, biological and social) in order to identify the root causes of many childhood diseases and conditions, including preterm birth, asthma, obesity, heart disease, injury and diabetes.

We applaud and appreciate Congress for recognizing the importance of the NCS by fully funding this study in the FY07 Joint Funding Resolution. After an investment of over $50 million to plan this ground breaking study, the $69 million in the Resolution is allowing for the completion of the study protocol, funding of additional study centers and beginning the recruitment process for the first wave of participants.

While we recognize that federal resources are extremely constrained, we feel it is crucial that Congress provide the necessary funding to implement this study and thereby demonstrate its commitment to this extremely valuable research and to America’s children.

Thank you again for your continued support of child and adolescent health research.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Healthy Homes
Ambulatory Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Sleep Medicine
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Chemistry Council
American Educational Research Association
American Heart Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Sociological Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Population Centers
Association of SIDS & Infant Mortality Programs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autism Speaks
Coalition of Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Cooley’s Anemia Foundation
Easter Seals
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
First Candle/SIDS Alliance
FRAXA Research Foundation
Genetic Alliance
Genetic Alliance BioBank
Healthy Schools Network, Inc.
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Disabilities Association of California
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine
March of Dimes Foundation
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Osteoporosis Foundation
Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
Parents of Kids with Infectious Disorders
Population Association of America
PXE International
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Women’s Health Research
Spina Bifida Association
The Arc of the United States
United Cerebral Palsy