Dear Chairman Harkin, Ranking Member Specter, Chairman Obey, and Ranking Member Walsh:

The undersigned organizations respectfully request that you provide FY2009 funding of $192.3 million for the National Children’s Study (NCS) within the National Institutes of Health Office of the Director. This funding will allow for awarding the final group of study centers and continued recruitment of study participants.

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 the $110.9 million appropriated for this study in the FY08 Consolidated Appropriations Act. While we recognize that federal resources are extremely constrained, we feel it is crucial that Congress fully fund the next phase of the National Children’s Study and thereby continue to 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,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Chemistry Council
American Heart Association
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Brown University
Children's Environmental Health Institute
Cooley’s Anemia Foundation
Consortium of Social Science Associations
Easter Seals
First Focus
FRAXA Research Foundation
Genetic Alliance
Healthy Schools Network
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Disabilities Association of California
March of Dimes Foundation
National Association of Children’s Hospitals
National Catholic Rural Life Conference
National Council of Catholic Women
New Jersey Environmental Federation
Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives
Population Association of America/ Association of Population Centers
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
RESULTS
Society for Pediatric Research
The Arc of the United States
United Cerebral Palsy
University of Minnesota School of Public Health
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops