MUSC
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

GENERAL PEDIATRICS
171 ASHLEY AVENUE
CHARLESTON • SC 29425

J. Routt Reigart, MD
Director

William T. Basco, MD
Walton L. Eator, MD
Kelly Havig-Lipka, MD
Melissa Howard Henshaw, MD
Sharron Jackson, MD
Michelle Lally, MD
James R. Roberts, MD
Sara E. Schuh, MD
Hazel M. Webb, MD
Patricia O. Clark
(843) 792-5345
(843) 792-9223 Fax

Emergency Pediatrics
John W. Ringwood, MD
Barbara L. Kahn
(843) 953-8459
(843) 953-8458 Fax

General Pediatrics Research Group
Paul M. Darden, MD
Colleen M. Moran, MD
Donald Scott Davis, MHS
Linda DeRamer, RN
Patti W. Holsclaw, MHA
William Klauber, PA, MAT
Keith Browning
(843) 792-2979
(843) 792-2588 Fax

Primary Care Continuity Clinic
Paul M. Darden, MD
Director
(843) 792-3955
(843) 792-0330 Fax

Patient Appointments
General Pediatrics Clinic
(843) 953-8444
Primary Care Clinic
(843) 792-3955
Emergency Pediatrics
(843) 577-0600

July 27, 1998

Honorable Carol M. Browner
Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington DC 20460

Dear Administrator Browner:

At the July meeting of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee Mr. Robert Axelrad presented an excellent review of the asthma initiative of the Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children. We were very impressed by the importance of this increased emphasis on the environmental causes and exacerbating effects of environmental agents on childhood asthma. We strongly support this new and increased emphasis.

The Committee also wishes to emphasize the importance of the Task Force taking an holistic approach to this problem and continuing to work closely with all agencies that might assist in the prevention of childhood asthma. I want to personally emphasize that the Committee and I feel very strongly that environmental factors are critically important in the causation of asthma and deserve much more emphasis than they have been accorded in the past. This emphasis is consistent with our recent recommendations to you concerning EPA's regulatory re-evaluation effort.

We continue to be very supportive of your prior efforts to reduce ambient air hazards by tightening ozone standards and setting standards for particulates in ambient air. We also strongly support efforts to reduce exposure of children to second-hand tobacco smoke, which is clearly a serious and ongoing risk to children. If the Committee or I can be of any assistance to you regarding the present dishonest attack on the efforts of the Agency regarding second-hand smoke, please let me know.

I have appended the text of the resolution adopted by the Committee.

Thank you for your continued support of the Committee and you continued efforts to improve the health and welfare of children.

Sincerely,

J. Routt Reigart, MD

JRR/pc

"An equal opportunity employer"

RESOLUTION
CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8 July 1998

The 'CHPAC' strongly supports the joint EPA/HHS "Task Force on Asthma." We agree with the increased emphasis on evaluating environmental risk factors and their role in the rising prevalence of asthma morbidity, and on identifying preventive approaches to address environmental risk factors.

Given the wide range of factors potentially related to asthma occurrence, the 'CHPAC' encourages the "Asthma Task Force" to take a broad view of environmental risk factors, and to coordinate with other agencies (*e.g.* USDA and FDA).

Similarly, the 'CHPAC' also encourages the "Asthma Task Force" to develop and maintain close ties with related HHS efforts to explore non-environmental causes of asthma, so that a holistic federal program can be developed.