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July 31, 2007

RADM Craig Vanderwagen, MD  
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Room 638-G  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Vanderwagen:

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), a non-profit professional organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical sub-specialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and wellbeing of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults urges you to appoint at least one pediatrician to serve on the National Biodefense Science Board.

Children represent approximately 25 percent of our nation's population, and they are highly vulnerable during chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological disasters. Their developing minds and bodies place children at disproportionate risk in a number of specific ways, ranging from their faster breathing rate and greater surface-to-mass ratio to their variable cognitive and motor ability to assess and escape danger. When exposed, children need different dosages or formulations of countermeasures and may require differently-sized equipment for administration. As a result, special attention must be paid to our nation's ability to meet children's needs in biodefense matters.

Several highly qualified pediatricians have expressed willingness to serve on the National Biodefense Advisory Board, any one of whom would bring vital pediatric expertise to this body. The AAP would like to bring your attention to the application of Frederick Henretig, MD, FAAP, FACMT. Dr. Henretig is an emergency medicine attending physician, director of the Section of Clinical Toxicology, and Senior Toxicologist and Associate Medical Director of the Poison Control Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He has extensive expertise in the fields of emergency and disaster medicine, as well as countermeasures and toxicology. Dr. Henretig would be an outstanding addition to the Science Board.

The AAP appreciates your ongoing commitment to the health and safety of our nation's children. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Cindy Pellegrini in AAP's Washington, DC office at 202/347-8600. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jay E. Berkelhamer  
President