



HENRY FERNANDEZ
*promoting responsible environmental,
health, and safety decision making*

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December 5, 1998

Thomas J. Borelli, Ph.D.
Director, Science and Policy Issues
Philip Morris Companies Inc.
120 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017-5592

Dear Mr. Borelli:

Are children at more or less risk than they have been in the past? If you read the headlines or listen to many advocacy groups, you would assume without any doubt that the answer is "yes, they are at more risk". But sound public policy requires decision-makers to put aside all of the hype and emotion.

Children's health is a very emotional issue, around which numerous causes have been wrapped around by various government agencies and advocacy organizations. On a comparative basis, which hazards are placing our children at most risk? And, are Federal-funded programs directed at those hazards posing the greatest risks? How great of a risk to children do certain perceived hazards pose?

These are the types of questions that The Annapolis Center will be addressing in 1999, as it considers children's health issues. But to proceed with this program, The Center needs your financial support. We are seeking immediate support for Phase One of our program, which we hope to kick off in the beginning of next year.

Phase One: Developing a Baseline

The Annapolis Center will commission a poll to be done of pediatricians and emergency room doctors to determine their perceptions and actual experiences of what is placing children at most risk. A second poll would be commissioned to ask the same questions of parents. This poll will provide a good baseline or overview on the current state of children's health and whether it is getting better or worse and would be conducted on an annual basis. It is understood that this poll will address acute rather than chronic injuries and diseases. The poll will also attempt to determine which hazards are increasing.

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Phase Two: Workshop on Children's Health

The Center will plan a workshop, inviting such organizations as the Children's Defense Fund and other advocacy organizations, to compare and prioritize their perceived hazards to children.

Phase Three: Conference on Children's Risk: Compare and Prioritize.

This conference would be a follow-up to the workshop and poll. The conference is to discuss the baseline the Center has developed through its poll, the results of the workshop, and identify which hazards are attracting the most federal funding in research and/or prevention. Part of the focus of this conference would be issue of obesity and children.

Phase Four: Children's Health Workshop(s)

One or two workshops will be planned on the issue of children's health in general, and addressing specific issues in assessing risks of the following:

- Endocrine disruptors*; and ,
- Asthma* (indoor air and particulate matter).

* These issues would be examined in the context of *The Annapolis Accords for Risk Analysis*.

Our audiences for the products of each of these projects would be Members of Congress, Governors, and the media.

Your financial support in the form of an unrestricted contribution is critical to our ability to proceed. Would the Philip Morris Companies Inc. be able to contribute \$15,000 so that we can begin Phase One?

As a pediatrician myself, I know how important this work is. Please contact Richard Seibert at 410-268-3302 if you have any questions about this or any other of the Center's projects. (Dick's e-mail address is Rseibert@annctr.org)

Sincerely,



VADM Harold M. Koenig MC, USN (Ret.)
Chair and President
Former Surgeon General, United States Navy

Visit The Annapolis Center's Website at www.annapoliscenter.org

Enclosures

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