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*Mercy Health System of Western New York
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Accreditation of Hospitals*

July 22, 1994

NIOSH Docket Office
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
Mail Stop C34
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Dear Sir:

We wish to commend NIOSH for its responsiveness to the concerns of health care providers regarding respiratory protective devices. We appreciate the introduction of science into the process for certifying respiratory protective devices.

We urge NIOSH to continue its research activities toward understanding TB transmission. This understanding can utilize science to define the types or levels of personal respiratory protection.

Our goal is to protect the health care worker while not compromising quality patient care. At the same time, we are concerned about keeping health care costs down. Using scientific research, this goal can be accomplished. We urge NIOSH to continue its research to develop a performance standard that will enable health care workers to select equipment truly designed to protect them.

Sincerely,

Donna Brown, R.N., C.I.C.
Director - Infection Control

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JUL 26 1994