DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

APR 7 1983

George D. Lundberg, M.D.
Editor, Journal of the
American Medical Association
535 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Dear Dr. Lundberg:

I am pleased to present you with a copy of Children with Handicaps and Their Families, based on material presented recently at the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Surgeon General's Workshop held at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. More than 170 health care providers, financial executives, legislative aides, and parents met to formulate recommendations concerning the care of children with disabling conditions and their families.

Although ventilator-dependent children were used as the models for the discussions, the recommendations have implications for nationwide care of all children with disabilities. The recommendations focused on ways to ameliorate legislative and financial barriers to home care and on ways to organize and coordinate existing community resources.

Many of these recommendations, as might be expected, affect physicians and other health care personnel. Coordinating the highly sophisticated and specialized medical/surgical allied health, and supportive professional team to determine and provide the most appropriate care for technology-dependent children in the least restrictive environment emerged as a high priority during the workshop.

Representatives from the American Medical Association (AMA) indicated that a number of the recommendations relate to priority activities in which the AMA is currently involved or in which it is planning to become involved. Specifically cited were the Medical Information Network (NET), with its potential for incorporating medical and referral information on disabling conditions affecting children, and the Health Policy Agenda for the American People, with its potential for focusing appropriate attention on planning to meet the health care needs of the chronically ill and of disabled persons.

I understand that both of these activities are still in the developmental stages. It may, therefore, be desirable for representatives from the American Medical Association and from the Office of the Surgeon General to meet to discuss how we may best cooperate and coordinate to accomplish our mutual objectives. If such a meeting seems as desirable to you as it does to me, I hope that it can be arranged as soon as possible.

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In any event, the American Medical Association is to be commended for the attention it is focusing on meeting the immediate health care needs of all persons with disablng conditions. I understand that the AMA has been an active participant in activities of the International and National Year of Disabled Persons, in addition to its ongoing activities in health care and education. I hope that the AMA will focus special attention on a special group with special needs: the million dollar babies.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

C. Everett Koop, M.D.
Surgeon General

bcc: Dr. Vince Hutchins
Dr. Hannah Hedrick

Prepared by:CEKoop:vsd, 4/7/83

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