

**As Prepared for Kevin Teichman, Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Science, Office of Research and Development**

**Congressional Briefing with Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) and Rep.  
Christopher Smith (R-NJ)**

**Closing Remarks**

**April 18, 2008**

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- I would like to take the time again to say how appreciative I am that we were all able to make this briefing come to fruition---especially on a Friday morning when the weather is gorgeous.
- While we have heard a number of examples of our scientific progress in children's health, it is important that we keep the momentum going and not rest on our laurels.
- This briefing today underscores the benefits of federal-academic partnerships and the effectiveness of community engagement in addressing children's health protection.
- We must continue to coordinate our research programs, while sharing our findings with those who can take action to protect our children, including parents, schools, clinics, and even government entities.
- Children's health protection requires our vigilance and commitment as it is our goal to provide a healthy start for every child in America.
- To make this happen, we must push harder to reduce the factors that contribute to pre-term births, developmental and behavioral delays, and childhood asthma.
- I hope you found this briefing both informative and warranted. It was inspiring to get an update from the Children's Study Working Group and hear first-hand from Dr. Virginia Rauh on the groundbreaking work she and her research partners at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health are doing.
- Thank you for taking the time to do this. And a special thanks to Drs. Sam Wilson and Kimberly Gray, our colleagues and long-term partners in children's environmental health at NIEHS.
- Finally, I would like to suggest that we meet again later this year, perhaps in October, which is Children's Health Month, to provide you an update, either in general or on any specific issues of concern you may have.

- We at EPA would be happy to coordinate such a briefing.
- Remember, protecting children is EPA's goal. Promoting safe environments is our responsibility.
- I would now like to open it up for discussion.