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The Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter reaffirming your support for an independent review of the scientific evidence on the carcinogenicity of beryllium. I am determined that the controversy surrounding the health effects of beryllium be resolved in a thorough, persuasive, and expeditious manner.

After a close examination of the scientific disputes on this subject, the Under Secretary and I agree with you that an independent review would be useful. We have therefore asked Dr. Richmond, Assistant Secretary for Health and Surgeon General, to appoint an outside group of scientists to review the experimental and epidemiological evidence. Specifically, this group will:

- o evaluate the quality of experimental data indicating the carcinogenicity of beryllium in animals, with particular attention to the strength of evidence on the carcinogenicity of beryllium copper;
- o review the findings of the CDC Beryllium Review Panel regarding the paper by Wagoner, et. al.;
- o review any other pertinent studies of beryllium as a carcinogen in humans;
- o provide such guidance as they may deem appropriate on the regulation of beryllium.

I appreciate your deep concern.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joa

Joseph A. Califano, Jr.

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