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July 5, 1994

NIOSH Docket Office Robert A. Taft Laboratories Mail Stop C34 4678 Columbia Parkway Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

Dear Sir,

As an infection control practitioner, Director of Infection Control at Sewickley Valley Hospital, Sewickley Pennsylvania, I wish to state my support of the proposed standard. The previously proposed specifications for particulate filter respirators created considerable burden upon the healthcare industry. Manufacturers need to have greater flexibility than just the edict to create the mandated HEPA particulate respirators.

The requirement for fit testing/fit checking programs is still an added burden and cost to the healthcare industry. TB transmission has not occurred due to inefficiency of masks. This is another example of government fixing what isn't broken.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these regulations and to further render my support.

Sincerely,

Shirley Friend, RN, CPHQ

Director, Utilization Management/Infection Control

cc:

Jackie Bryan

Senator Harris Wofford

Representative Ron Klink

JUL 11 1994

SZF/ksm

VHA.