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DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

July 18, 1994

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

Gentlemen:

I am writing in support of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) proposal that would change the current procedures for testing and certifying air purifying respirators. This rule was published in the Federal Register May 24, 1994. The proposed certification procedures will meet or exceed the criteria recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for protection against Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

The certification of air purifying respirators may enable respirator users to select from a broader range of equipment and use of such equipment could minimize risk to health care workers without compromising patient care. In addition, the availability of air filtered respirators would offer our patients respiratory protection that is wearable in a health care delivery situation compared to HEPA respirators which are hot and suffocating to wear for extensive periods.

As a member of senior management and Chief Nursing Officer, I feel the introduction of these protective devices would balance employee safety, patient care and containment of costs here at Mercy Medical Center. I salute NIOSH in their efforts to develop advanced respiratory protection which, I am confident, will lead to improving our knowledge of what works best in TB control. The proposed rule has my full support.

Sincerely,

Dorothy A. Quinn, MSN, RN
Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer

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