



**Park Home Care
Of Central Florida**

Part of Columbia Park Healthcare System

July 15, 1994

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

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to comment on the proposed rule for certification of respiratory protective devices. While I am certainly in favor of affording all health care workers protection from tuberculosis, I think we need to be careful not to overreact. While we are supposedly in the business of providing optimum health care, are we doing that by mandating the use of the particulate respirators at all? In all of the literature, it clearly states that the transmission of tuberculosis has not been prevented by the use of these masks. It would seem to me that perhaps we are instead reacting instead of acting, and making a few manufacturers very wealthy.

However, if broadening the range of acceptable certified respirators will provide the user the ability to choose a mask that better suits their needs, then I am in favor. I have felt for some time that we were being forced to spend a huge amount of money for a product whose efficacy has not been proven. Fifty-five cents is certainly less expensive than \$4.50 a piece. I will not even comment on the expense involved for the ridiculous and archaic fit test kit.

Maybe healthy doses of education, and not hysteria are what we need. In the meantime, until the CDC and NIOSH can assist local agencies in these efforts instead of bending to labor union pressure, I am in favor of certifying additional respirators.

Sincerely,

Eugenie Green Blaher

Eugenie Green Blaher, RN BS
Clinical Educator

Caring for You at Home

JUL 19 1994