

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 18, 1999

Dr. Harold T. Shapiro
Chair
National Bioethics Advisory Commission
Suite 5B01
6100 Executive Boulevard
Rockville, Maryland 20892-7508

Dear Harold:

I would like to thank you and the members of the National Bioethics Advisory Commission for your preliminary report on the adequacy of protections afforded to human subjects enrolled in government-sponsored research. This subject warrants our attention and action to correct any shortcomings in our current system of safeguards.

I agree with you regarding the points we must look at closely, and I urge you to press forward with your review. Our national biomedical research program is the most highly respected in the world, and we must ensure that our ethics are as good as our science. When I established the Commission, I asked that you make the adequacy of our protections for human research subjects your first priority. Your advice will be critical to achieving the highest ethical standards in research involving volunteers who agree to participate.

I'm grateful for all you do, and I look forward to your more comprehensive report.

Sincerely,

