Deal Member:

The Cincinnati Pediatric Society, at its last meeting on June 15, 1953, agreed unanimously to support the Cincinnati Board of Health in the distribution of Gamma Globulin to polio exposures. This meant that the only people to receive the inoculations would be those relatives under 30 years of age who were directly exposed to a polio patient. The material was to be provided free of charge by the Board of Health and the dose to be given was set at 0.14 cc per pound. It was further agreed by the Pediatric Society that our charge for administering the shots would be equivalent to any other routine office or home call fee.

It has come to the attention of the executive officers of the Pediatric Society, through numerous complaints from fellow members, that several pediatricians have instituted a practice of giving small doses of Gamma Globulin routinely to all their patients, regardless of exposure, and demanding a fee for it. The reverberations from such a policy are manifold: Firstly, those patients receiving the inoculations are given a false sense of security, since the amounts given are inadequate to confer immunity. Secondly, the word has spread to other patients who are telephoning their own pediatricians for an explanation, since most of us have been trying to educate our own practice as to the specific indications for Gamma Globulin. Thirdly, if such a policy of indiscriminate use of this material is continued, the whole program set up by the Board of Health will be shattered and the days of the black market will again flourish.

The prime concern of the Cincinnati Pediatric Society is the health and welfare of the children of our community. We all know how panic-stricken the public becomes at the very mention of the word "poliomyelitis." We can best serve the interests of the public only by the strictest adherence to the established policy. Each member's individual cooperation is respectfully solicited.

Joseph E. Ghory, President
John E. Allen, Vice President
Clare R. Rittershofer, Secretary
CINCINNATI PEDIATRIC SOCIETY

P.S. Feeling that it would be an appropriate gesture in both instances, the Cincinnati Pediatric Society has forwarded donations, in the amount of $100 each, to the Crusade for Dental Health, supporting its fight for fluoridation, and to the Dr. Frank E. Stevenson Memorial Fund. We trust these moves meet with your approval.