July 12, 1994

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

To whom it may concern:

The Board of Directors of the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) supports the proposed standard in testing procedures of particulate filter respirators (43 CFR Part 84 Fed Register Vol. 59, No.99, pp. 26850-26893). The Board agrees with the stand taken by our colleagues, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.(APIC), that the proposed standard is a good, initial step toward improving the product certification process and begins to address needs unique to the health care setting. The ONS Board agrees that the 95% filter efficiency should be acceptable for the needs of most health care workers.

The ONS Board of Directors is concerned that realistic goals be established, that health care workers are afforded reasonable protection, and that the individuals in our care receive appropriate, timely, and cost-effective interventions. The Board urges continued research and development of devices and techniques that meet these goals and achieve the desired outcomes.

Respectfully,

Pamela J. Haylock, R.N., M.A.
Secretary, Board of Directors

cc: Pearl Moore
    Linda Johnson
    Mary Garlick Baroni
    Barbara Russell