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To: Lorraine D. Hunt OIRA ECON GUIDE/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Protect value of life of elderly

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March 27, 2003

Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Lorraine Hunt
Office of Management and Budget, NEOB
Room 10202, 725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Hunt:

- The "OMB Draft Guidelines for the Conduct of Regulatory Analysis and the Format of Accounting Statements" determines that saving the life of an elderly person is worth less than saving the life of a younger person..
- As an American citizen who is the grandchild/child/relative of a senior citizen, I find that devaluing an elderly person's life is unethical and unmoral.
- The analysis proposes to devalue the life of a human over 70 to 2/3 that of the rest of the population and lowers the established EPA price tag of a human life from \$6.1 million to \$3.7 million.
- The OMB's conclusion that the lives of senior citizens are less valuable raises serious ethical and scientific questions.
- If analysis is fully applied, regulations for air pollution, toxic waste cleanup, food labeling and other quality of life issues could be weakened or not even implemented at all--and our senior citizens will feel the brunt of it since their health is the most vulnerable to dirty air and unhealthy food.

Not only senior citizens, but also children will be harmed by use of this analysis. Please do not allow this 'two-edged sword' to guide policy in our country. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Mertens, ASC