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Washington, D.C. -- Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, applauded the signing of the Pediatric Research Equity Act into law by President Bush at the White House this morning. Rep. Eshoo introduced the original House version of the bill along with Rep. Jim Greenwood (R-PA). The Act gives the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) full authority to require the appropriate testing of prescription medications for children. That authority was questioned by a recent court decision.

"Every parent and pediatrician can appreciate the importance of this legislation," Eshoo said. "For too long, doctors have had to rely more on guesswork than certainty when it came to providing prescription drugs to children. This law finally gives the FDA the authority it needs to ensure that children receive the most appropriate dosages of prescription medications."

The new law builds on legislation Rep. Eshoo sponsored and passed during the 107th Congress, the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act. Since its enactment in 2002, the Act has yielded significant and life-saving dosing and efficacy data on prescription drugs for children.

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