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Washington, D.C. -- Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, D-Palo Alto, applauded today's passage of S. 650, the Pediatric Research Equity Act, legislation she sponsored 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.

"For too long, doctors have been forced to rely more on guesswork than certainty when it came to providing prescription drugs to children," Eshoo said. "This bill finally gives the FDA the authority it needs to ensure that children receive the most appropriate dosages of prescription medications."

Today's bill builds on legislation Rep. Eshoo sponsored and passed during the 107th Congress, the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act. Since its passage, the Act has yielded significant and life-saving dosing and efficacy data on prescription drugs for children.

A recent court decision, however, struck down an FDA regulation that would require drug manufacturers to perform pediatric evaluations when they were deemed absolutely necessary. Rep. Eshoo's bill obviates that decision and gives the FDA full authority to enforce those requirements.

"Every parent can appreciate the importance of this legislation," Eshoo continued. "It will help provide doctors and parents the information they need to give children the best and safest medical treatment possible, without any guesswork."

The Pediatric Research Equity Act attracted broad support from hundreds of organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and the pharmaceutical industry.

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