

June 14, 2019

The Honorable Kim Schrier, MD, FAAP
United States House of Representatives
1123 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD
United States House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eliot Engel
United States House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
United States House of Representatives
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
United States House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schrier, Burgess, Engel, Bilirakis, Schrader and Guthrie:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we would like to share our support and thank you for introducing the *Vaccine Awareness Campaign to Champion Immunization Nationally and Enhance Safety (VACCINES) Act of 2019* (H.R. 2862).

2019 has seen the highest number of confirmed measles cases in the United States since the disease was declared eliminated in 2000. As of June 5, there have been 1,001 individual measles cases confirmed in 26 states. The recent uptick in the number of unvaccinated children around the country is largely due to a rise in the spread of vaccine misinformation and vaccine hesitancy, which the World Health Organization (WHO) deemed one of the ten biggest threats to global health in 2019. The *VACCINES Act of 2019* is a critical step in combatting vaccine hesitancy and misinformation and ensuring that there is continued public awareness of the importance of vaccinations.

As medical, public health, patient and education organizations, we strongly support the goals of your legislation, which seeks to support research to better understand vaccine hesitancy, spread public awareness of the importance of vaccinations, and increase vaccination rates across the lifespan. The bill authorizes the development of a national vaccination rate surveillance system at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and allows data collected to be used to identify communities with low vaccination utilization or where vaccine misinformation may be targeted. It authorizes research grants to better understand vaccine hesitancy, attitudes towards vaccines, and develop strategies to address nonadherence to the recommended use of vaccines.

Additionally, the bill authorizes an evidence-based public awareness campaign on the importance of vaccinations that would aim to increase vaccination rates and can be targeted at communities that have particularly low vaccination levels. Grants may be awarded to State, local, and tribal health departments to engage communities with lower than average vaccination

rates, better understand challenges to increasing vaccination rates in these communities and develop community partnerships to deliver evidence-based interventions to raise vaccination rates. In order to successfully prevent future outbreaks, these grants must be robustly funded in order to effectively engage communities with lower vaccination rates

We appreciate your commitment to ensuring high vaccination rates and we are pleased to support the *VACCINES Act of 2019*. We urge Congress to swiftly pass the *VACCINES Act of 2019* and we look forward to working with you to improve the vaccination rate across the lifespan and to prevent future outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases

Sincerely,

National Organizations

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Immunologists
American Association of Public Health Dentistry
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
American College of Physicians
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Immunization Registry Association
American Institute of Dental Public Health
American Lung Association
American Medical Association
American Medical Student Association
American Nurses Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Association
American Pediatric Society
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Pharmacists Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Public Health Association
American Sexual Health Association
American Society of Clinical Oncology

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Immunization Managers
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Autism Science Foundation
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation
Cervivor, Inc.
Child and Family Policy Center
Child Welfare League of America
Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatology Research Alliance (CARRA)
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Children's Advocacy Alliance
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Hospital Association
Council of Administrators of Special Education
Council of Pediatric Subspecialties
e-Chapter, NAPNAP
Families Fighting Flu
First Candle
Global Healthy Living Foundation
Hep B United
Hepatitis B Foundation
HIV Medicine Association
Immunization Action Coalition
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
March of Dimes
Mended Little Hearts
National AHEC Organization
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of EMS Physicians
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP)
National Association of School Nurses
National Birth Defects Prevention Network
National Coalition for Infant Health
National Consumers League
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID)
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Meningitis Association
National Organization for Rare Disorders

Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
Nurses Who Vaccinate
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Pediatric Endocrine Society
Pediatric Infectious Disease Society
Pediatric Policy Council
Pediatric Pulmonology Training Directors Association
PKIDs
PremieWorld, LLC
RetireSafe
School-Based Health Alliance
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Pediatric Dermatology
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society of Critical Care Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society of Thoracic Surgeons
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
Teratology Society
The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation
The Emily Stillman Foundation
The Franny Strong Foundation
The Jewish Federations of North America
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
Trust for America's Health
Vaccinate Your Family
Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Voices for Vaccines

State Organizations

Alabama Chapter, NAPNAP
Alabama Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Alaska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Alliance for Immunization in Michigan (AIM)
Arizona Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Arizona Chapter, NAPNAP
Arkansas Chapter, NAPNAP
BestStart Washington
Arkansas Immunization Action Coalition (ImmunizeAR)
California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics

California Chapter 2, American Academy of Pediatrics
California Chapter 3, American Academy of Pediatrics
California Chapter 4, American Academy of Pediatrics
California Children's Hospital Association
Central Oklahoma Immunization Coalition
Chicago Department of Public Health
Children's Defense Fund - California
Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota
Children's Defense Fund - New York
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Children's Minnesota
California Children's Specialty Care Coalition
Colorado Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition
Colorado PTA
Columbiana County Health Department
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
Connecticut Chapter, NAPNAP
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Everybody Counts Immunization Coalition (Georgia)
Family Voices NJ
Florida Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Georgia Chapter, NAPNAP
Greater Salt Lake Immunization Coalition
Hampton Roads Chapter, NAPNAP
Hawaii Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Hawaii Chapter, NAPNAP
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center
Hawaii Immunization Coalition
Hep Free Hawaii
Houston Area Chapter, NAPNAP
Idaho Immunization Coalition
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Immunization Coalition of Delaware
Immunize Nevada
Immunize Ohio
Indiana Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Indiana Immunization Coalition
Iowa Association of Nurse Practitioners
Iowa Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Iowa Public Health Association
Kansas Advanced Practice Nurses (KAPN)
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Kentucky Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Kentucky Immunization Coalition
Langlade County Immunization Coalition
Los Angeles Chapter, NAPNAP
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
MaineHealth
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maryland Partnership for Prevention
Massachusetts Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Massachusetts Chapter, NAPNAP
Michigan Association of School Nurses
Michigan Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Michigan Academy of Family Physicians
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Michigan Pharmacists Association
Michigan State Medical Society Alliance
Minnesota Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Minnesota Childhood Immunization Coalition
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Montana Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Music City Chapter, NAPNAP
Nevada Academy of Family Physicians
Nevada Cancer Coalition
Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Nevada Public Health Association
New Hampshire Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
New Mexico Medical Society
New Mexico Pediatric Society
New York State Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics
New York State Chapter 2, American Academy of Pediatrics
New York State Chapter 3, American Academy of Pediatrics
North Carolina Chapter, NAPNAP
North Carolina Pediatric Society
North Carolina Public Health Association
North-East Kansas Nurse Practitioner Alliance (NEK-NPA)
Northern Michigan Vaccine Preventable Disease Task Force
Northwest Health Law Advocates (Washington)
Nurse Practitioner Association New York State
NYU Winthrop Hospital
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Ohio Chapter, NAPNAP
Oklahoma Alliance for Healthy Families

Oklahoma Caring Foundation
Oklahoma Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Orange County Chapter, NAPNAP
Oregon Pediatric Society
Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Pennsylvania Delaware Valley Chapter, NAPNAP
Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition
Pennsylvania Three Rivers Chapter, NAPNAP
Public Health – Seattle & King County
Salt Lake County Board of Health
San Diego Chapter, NAPNAP
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, NAPNAP
San Joaquin Valley Chapter, NAPNAP
Sioux Falls Area Immunization Coalition
South Carolina Chapter, NAPNAP
South Carolina Parents for Vaccines
South Dakota Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
South Texas Alamo Chapter, NAPNAP
Southern Wisconsin Immunization Coalition
Student Immunization Initiative (SII) - Hawaii
Student Immunization Organization, University of Hawaii at Manoa
Team Maureen (Massachusetts)
The Arizona Partnership for Immunization
The Children's Agenda (New York)
The Immunization Partnership (Texas)
Tulsa Area Immunization Coalition
Vaccinate California
Vermont Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Vermont Pharmacists Association
Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Virginia Chapter, NAPNAP
Voices for Ohio's Children
Washington Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
West Virginia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
West Virginia Immunization Network
Western New York Chapter, NAPNAP
Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
Wisconsin Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Wisconsin Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
WithinReach
Wyoming Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics