



January 17, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chair
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander, Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Murray, and Ranking Member Wyden:

Vaccines are one of the greatest success stories in public health and are among the most cost-effective ways to prevent disease. Indeed, we know that for each dollar invested in the U.S. childhood immunization program, there are over ten dollars of societal savings and three dollars in direct medical savings. Moreover, it is [estimated](#) that the benefits which will be accrued from the Vaccines For Children Program for children born over the first twenty years of the program will prevent 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations, 732,000 deaths, and nearly \$1.4 trillion in societal costs.

While immunization rates remain high for children, pockets of undervaccinated communities remain at risk of deadly vaccine-preventable diseases. Immunization rates for adolescents and adults remain woefully low, leaving them vulnerable to diseases including several deadly cancers, and to serving as vectors for the transmission of deadly diseases, such as pertussis to young children. It has been [reported](#) that the U.S. spends nearly \$27 billion annually treating four vaccine-preventable diseases that afflict adults over 50 years of age: influenza, pertussis, pneumococcal disease and shingles.

Costly outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases continue to challenge the nation's public health system. In the past three years 904 Americans were diagnosed with highly contagious measles, 4,625 cases of mumps were detected and pertussis (which is particularly deadly to infants) was diagnosed in more than 67,000 people. In addition, each year, more than 200,000 individuals are hospitalized and 3,000 - 49,000 deaths occur from influenza-related complications.

As the nominee for the Secretary of Health and Human Services it is our hope that Chairman Tom Price will support our nation's public health infrastructure by fostering investments in the science and technology that informs our national immunization policy, providing a safety net to uninsured poor adults for vaccine purchases, monitoring the safety of vaccines, educating providers and performing community outreach, and conducting surveillance, laboratory testing, and epidemiology to respond to disease outbreaks.

As you work through the confirmation process, we urge you to ensure that Chairman Price is committed to protecting the citizens of this nation from vaccine preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Dental Research
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Immunization Registry Association
American Pharmacists Association
American Public Health Association
American Sexual Health Association
American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association
American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
Arizona Partnership for Immunization
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Immunization Managers
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Autism Science Foundation
Boost Oregon
California Academy of Family Physicians
California Immunization Coalition
Center for Vaccine Awareness and Research, Texas Children's Hospital
Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy/GE2P2 Global Foundation
Central Oklahoma Immunization Coalition
Cervivor
Columbia County Immunization Coalition - Wisconsin
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.

Coulee Region Immunization Coalition - Wisconsin
Emily Stillman Foundation
EverThrive Illinois
Every Child By Two – Carter/Bumpers Champions for Immunization
Families Fighting Flu
FIND - Switzerland
Gerontological Society of America
Green County Health Department - Wisconsin
Gregg County Health Department - Texas
Head and Neck Cancer Alliance
Hep B United
Hepatitis B Foundation
Immunization Action Coalition
Immunization Action Coalition of Washington
Immunization Coalition of Washington, DC
Immunization Collaboration of Tarrant County - Texas
Immunize Kansas Coalition
Immunize Nevada
Immunization Partnership - Texas
Indiana Immunization Coalition
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
International Vaccine Institute
Iowa County Health Department
Kelsey-Seybold Clinic
LA BioMed/South LA Health Projects
Langlade County Immunization Coalition - Wisconsin
March of Dimes
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Meningitis Angels
Mid America Immunization Coalition
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Minnesota Childhood Immunization Coalition
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Consumers League
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Meningitis Association
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Recreation and Park Association

Novavax

Ocean State Immunization Collaborative

**Ohio State Univ. Comprehensive Cancer Center/James Cancer Hospital &
Solove Research Institute**

PATH

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society

Pierce County Immunization Coalition – Washington

Public Health - Seattle & King County

Sabin Vaccine Institute

San Diego Immunization Coalition

Sheboygan County Immunization Coalition - Wisconsin

Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Southeast Minnesota Immunization Connection

Southern Wisconsin Immunization Consortium

TB Alliance

Team Maureen/Cervical Cancer-Free MA

Research Institute

Trust for America's Health

Vaccinate California

Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

VillageReach

Voices for Vaccines

Walgreens

Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Washington Global Health Alliance

Washtenaw County Public Health

West Virginia Immunization Network