

June 7, 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.  
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  
Organization of Teratology Information Specialists  
Pediatric Endocrine Society  
Pediatric Infectious Disease Society  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Pediatric Pulmonology Training Directors Association  
PKIDs  
PreemieWorld, 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  
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.  
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
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  
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 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 Three Rivers Chapter, NAPNAP  
Public Health – Seattle & King County  
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