



December 13, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C.  
20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your strong support and leadership in improving access to vaccines for older adults and individuals with chronic conditions who rely on federal programs for vaccine coverage. We are grateful that the Build Back Better Act includes two provisions that will greatly improve access to important preventative vaccines for our most vulnerable populations.

- **Section 139402** would provide first dollar coverage of adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices under Medicare Part D; and
- **Section 139405** would improve access to adult vaccines under Medicaid and CHIP by providing a federal baseline for first dollar coverage and an enhanced FMAP for immunizing providers.

Longstanding inequities in vaccine coverage, particularly for adults, has hindered our nation's disease prevention efforts and put older adults and persons with chronic conditions needlessly at risk of the serious health consequence of vaccine preventable illness. The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare these inequities and last year, Congress rightly made sure that COVID-19 vaccines would be available to everyone with no patient cost-sharing.

Likewise, Section 2713 of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) added by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) removed cost-sharing and co-pays for vaccinations recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for all compliant private plans. However, until now, Medicare and some Medicaid beneficiaries were left out of this change, leaving many to face high out-of-pocket costs for vaccinations.

The Build Back Better Act will remedy this longstanding inequity, by eliminating financial barriers to all ACIP recommended vaccines in Medicare Part D and by providing coverage and eliminating cost sharing for adults in traditional Medicaid. **These provisions will go a long way to improve the underlying health of the communities most at risk for COVID-19 and aid the elimination of racial disparities in health care, and are supported by a diverse group of immunization stakeholders.**

Again, we are grateful for your leadership in taking this important step. Members of AVAC stand ready to work with you, because we believe a fully vaccinated public is an investment in our future health, wellbeing and economic success of our nation.

Sincerely,

Adult Vaccine Access Coalition  
Alliance for Aging Research  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Behcet's Disease Association (ABDA)  
American Lung Association  
American Society on Aging  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Association of Immunization Managers (AIM)  
California Immunization Coalition  
Caregiver Action Network  
Caring Ambassadors Program  
Cascade AIDS Project  
Dynavax  
Families Fighting Flu  
Forward Pharmacy  
Geriatric Medicine PAs  
Global Healthy Living Foundation  
HealthHIV  
Healthy Men Inc.  
HealthyWomen  
Hepatitis B Foundation and Hep B United  
Hispanic Federation  
Idaho Immunization Coalition  
Immunize Colorado  
Immunize.org (IAC)  
ImmunizeTN  
Justice in Aging  
Kelsey-Seybold Clinic  
Kimberly Coffey Foundation  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
National Association Of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)  
National Black Nurses Association  
National Caucus and Center on Black Aging  
National Coalition for LGBTQ Health  
National Consumers League  
National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH)  
National Council on Aging

National Education Association  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)  
North Carolina Immunization Coalition  
Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation  
RetireSafe  
STChealth  
The AIDS Institute  
The Gerontological Society of America  
Triage Cancer  
Trust for America's Health  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Vaccinate Your Family  
Vaccine Ambassadors  
Valneva, USA  
VaxCare  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

Cc: Democratic members of the United States Senate