



November 10, 2020

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger  
United States House of Representatives  
1239 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dusty Johnson  
United States House of Representatives  
1508 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Spanberger and Johnson,

We write to express our strong support for the Secure Affordable Vaccines Equally (SAVE) For Seniors Act. We appreciate your work to protect Medicare beneficiaries from expected costs associated with a new COVID-19 vaccine.

Older adults, persons with disabilities and those living with chronic health conditions have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. These populations remain extremely vulnerable to the COVID virus and are at increased risk of suffering serious adverse health consequences from this disease. Hospitalizations, increased morbidity and mortality, loss of independence and the ability to engage in activities of daily living cost individuals 65 and older, their caregivers and loved ones in immeasurable ways. Costs associated with other vaccine preventable conditions add over \$8.3 billion to the health care system overall, according to a 2016 study of just four vaccine preventable conditions (influenza, pneumococcal disease, herpes zoster and pertussis)<sup>1</sup>.

Your legislation ensures that the COVID-19 vaccine will be provided to Medicare beneficiaries without any cost-sharing, even if the vaccine is authorized under emergency use. We greatly appreciate you taking swift action to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries are not discouraged from seeking a COVID-19 vaccine due to potential cost sharing concerns. During this public health crisis, older people have come forward to fill important roles in the community, supporting families, tutoring students, and filling gaps in the health care workforce. Therefore, it is extremely important that they not only have confidence in and trust the vaccine, but do not face financial hurdles if an authorized vaccine provides a clear and direct health benefit. Older people are one of our solutions to re-building our economy and strengthening our communities post-pandemic.

Again, thank you for leadership on the Secure Affordable Vaccines Equally (SAVE) For Seniors Act. Members of AVAC stand ready to work with you on this, and other important policy solutions that will build and strengthen vaccine confidence, access and uptake, not only in future COVID-19 vaccines, but all vaccines recommended for older adults.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research

American Immunization Registry Association

American Lung Association

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

Emily Stillman Foundation

Families Fighting Flu

Kimberly Coffey Foundation

National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)

The AIDS Institute

The Gerontological Society of America

Trust for America's Health

Vaccinate Your Family

WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease