

June 17, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York
New York State
Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

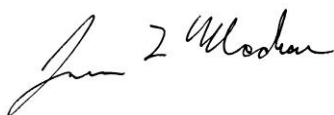
Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I write to thank you for signing legislation (Senate Bill 2994-A/Assembly Bill 2371) removing non-medical exemptions from school vaccination requirements for children. The AMA recognizes that your actions are highly controversial to some, and we stand with you and your commitment to protecting the public from vaccine-preventable diseases.

One of the greatest public health success stories is the remarkable decrease in infectious diseases due to the use of vaccines. Unfortunately, misinformation about the safety and effectiveness of vaccines has undermined our successful, life-saving immunization programs. As evident from the measles outbreak currently impacting your communities in New York and in other states, when individuals are not immunized as a matter of personal preference or misinformation, they put themselves and others at risk of devastating disease. By eliminating the religious exemption from school immunization requirements, New York has taken a critical step toward ensuring the health of each child who receives a vaccine, as well as the health of the community in which that child lives.

The AMA applauds your leadership on this important issue. If you have any questions, please contact Annalia Michelman, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4788.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD

cc: Medical Society of the State of New York