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June 17, 2019

The Honorable Brad Hoylman
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building, Room 310
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Hoylman:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I write to thank you for championing Senate Bill 2994-A, legislation that removes 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Medical Society of the State of New York