

February 7, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of organizations representing families, providers, researchers, patients, and consumers, we write to express our unequivocal support for the safety of vaccines. Vaccines protect the health of children and adults and save lives. They prevent life-threatening diseases, including forms of cancer. Vaccines have been part of the fabric of our society for decades and are one of the most significant medical innovations of our time.

Because of the introduction of mass vaccinations, smallpox was declared eradicated from the world in 1977. Polio, a disease that routinely afflicted 13,000 to 20,000 Americans every year in the United States before the availability of the vaccine, was officially eliminated from the Western Hemisphere in 1991. Globally, vaccines prevent the deaths of roughly 2.5 million children per year.¹ And, data shows that just for children born in the United States in 2009, routine childhood immunizations will prevent approximately 42,000 early deaths and 20 million cases of disease with savings of more than \$82 billion in societal costs.²

Although vaccines are the safest and most cost-effective way of preventing disease, disability and death, this country still witnesses outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, as highlighted by the measles outbreak at Disneyland in 2014. In 2012, 48,277 cases of pertussis (whooping cough) were reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including 20 pertussis-related deaths.³ This was the most reported cases of pertussis since 1955. In addition, each year, more than 200,000 individuals are hospitalized and 3,000-49,000 deaths occur from influenza-related complications.⁴

Claims that vaccines are unsafe when administered according to expert recommendations have been disproven by a robust body of medical literature, including a thorough review by the National Academy of Medicine (formerly known as the Institute of Medicine). Attached to this letter is a non-exhaustive list of studies demonstrating the safety of vaccines. Delaying vaccines only leaves our nation's citizens at risk of disease, particularly children. As a nation we should

¹ UNICEF. Immunization: Keeping Children Alive and Healthy.
https://www.unicef.org/immunization/files/Immunization_brochure.pdf

² Economic Evaluation of the Routine Childhood Immunization Program in the United States, 2009
Fangjun Zhou, Abigail Shefer, Jay Wenger, Mark Messonnier, Li Yan Wang, Adriana Lopez, Matthew Moore, Trudy V. Murphy, Margaret Cortese, Lance Rodewald. *Pediatrics* Apr 2014, 133 (4) 577-585; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2013-0698.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2012 Final Pertussis Surveillance Report.
<https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/downloads/pertuss-surv-report-2012.pdf>

⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Questions & Answers: Seasonal Influenza.
<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/disease.htm>. Accessed August 26, 2015.

redouble our efforts to make needed investments in patient and family education about the importance of vaccines in order to increase the rate of vaccination among all populations.

Put simply: Vaccines are safe. Vaccines are effective. Vaccines save lives. Our organizations welcome the opportunity to meet with you to share the robust, extensive scientific evidence supporting vaccine safety and effectiveness.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Academic Pediatric Association
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
African American Ministers In Action
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
The AIDS Institute
Alliance for Aging Research
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association for Dental Research
American Association for the Study of Liver Disease
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
American Association of Immunologists
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
American Association of Poison Control Centers
AASA, The School Superintendents Association
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Physicians
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Lung Association
American Medical Association
American Nurses Association

American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Pharmacists Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American School Health Association
American Sexual Health Association
American Society for Microbiology
The American Society of Clinical Oncology
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Pediatric Otolaryngology
American Thoracic Society
Americans for Democratic Action
The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation
The Arc of the United States
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare
Association for Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of Immunization Managers
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Public Health Laboratories
Association of School Business Officials International
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autism Science Foundation
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autism Speaks
AVAC (AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition)
Birth Defects Research and Education Foundation
Bridge the Gap- SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation
Center for Hunger-Free Communities - Drexel University
ChangeLab Solutions
Child Welfare League of America
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy

Children's Defense Fund
Children's Dental Health Project
The Children's Partnership
CJ First Candle
Coalition on Human Needs
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Community Catalyst
Doctors for America
Easterseals
Every Child By Two
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Families Fighting Flu
Family Voices
Federation of Associations in Behavioral and Brain Sciences
First Focus
Franny Strong Foundation
Generations United
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Health Resources in Action
Healthcare Ready
Hep B United
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis Education Project
HIV Medicine Association
Immunization Action Coalition
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Lurie Institute for Disability Policy
March of Dimes
Mended Little Hearts
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for the Dually Diagnosed
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of EMS Physicians
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials
National Birth Defects Prevention Network
National Blood Clot Alliance

National CMV Foundation
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Meningitis Association, Inc.
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Physician's Alliance
National PKU Alliance, Inc.
National Rural Education Advocacy Consortium
National Rural Education Association
National WIC Association
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
The North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition
The Organization of Teratology Information Specialists
Ounce of Prevention Fund
PACER Center
Parent to Parent USA
Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases
Partnership for America's Children
PATH
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Pediatric Policy Council
Physicians for Reproductive Health
PremieWorld
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Project Inform
Public Advocacy for Kids
Public Health Advocates
Public Health Institute
Quad Council Coalition of Public Health Nurses
Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research
RESULTS
RetireSafe
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Salaam Legal Network & Citizens Council for Human Rights
The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty and Law
School-Based Health Alliance
Scientific Technologies Corporation
Secular Coalition for America
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States

Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
Society for Public Health Education
Society for Reproductive Investigation
Society for the Study of Reproduction
Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Society of Pediatric Psychology
Spina Bifida Association
Teratology Society
Trust for America's Health
Vaccine Education Center at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Voices for Vaccines
Zero to Three

State-Based Organizations

AAUW-New York State, Inc.
Advocates for Children and Youth of Maryland
Advocates for Children of New Jersey
Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Alaska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
All Alaska Pediatric Partnership
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families
Arkansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Asian Services In Action of Ohio
ATSU/Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
Baltimore City Health Department
Black Children's Institute of Tennessee
Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition
Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
California Chapter 1 of the American Academy of Pediatrics
California Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics
California Chapter 3 of the American Academy of Pediatrics
California Chapter 4 of the American Academy of Pediatrics
California Children's Hospital Association
California Public Health Association-North
California School-Based Health Alliance

Child and Family Policy Center of Iowa
Children Now of California
Children's Defense Fund – California
Children's Defense Fund – New York
Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota
Children's Oncology Group, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Children's Specialty Care Coalition of California
The Community Health Outreach Work to Prevent AIDS Project (CHOW Project) of Hawaii
Colorado Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Colorado Children's Campaign
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
Community Clinic Consortium of Contra Costa and Solano Counties
Community Health Initiative Napa County
Community Resource Exchange of New York
Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Cook County Health and Hospitals System
County Health Executives Association of California
Delaware Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Delaware Family Voices
Department of Child Health, University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine
District of Columbia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Equitas Health of Ohio
EverThrive Illinois
Family Voices of Illinois
Family Voices of New Jersey
Family Voices of Tennessee
Fayette County Board of Education
FeedMore of Virginia
Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Florida Legal Services, Inc
Foster Adopt Connect Inc. of Missouri
Foundation for Healthy Generations of Washington
Georgia Chapter of the American academy of Pediatrics
Goldsboro (North Carolina) Pediatrics PA
Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition
Hawaii Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Hawaii Children's Action Network
Health and Education Alliance of Louisiana
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Hep Free Hawaii
Holy Cross Ministries of Utah

Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Idaho Parents Unlimited
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois State Medical Society
Immunization Action Coalition of Washington
Immunization Coalition of Delaware
Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Infectious Disease Society of Ohio
Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Iowa Public Health Association
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security
Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Kansas City (Missouri) Health Department
Kelsey-Seybold Clinic - Houston
Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Lancaster City Housing Authority
Lawyers For Children of New York
Legal Council for Health Justice of Chicago
Livingston County (Michigan) Health Department
Local Public Health Association of Minnesota
Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Louisiana Public Health Institute
Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Children's Alliance
Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Maryland United for Peace and Justice
Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Massachusetts Infectious Diseases Society
Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health
Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Missouri Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Montana Hospital Association
Montana Public Health Association
National Association of Social Workers – Rhode Island Chapter

Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors
Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Nemours Children's Health System
Nevada Association of Local Health Officials
Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
New Directions for Maine Families
New Hampshire Pediatric Society
New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
New Mexico Medical Society
New Mexico Pediatric Society
New Mexico Voices for Children
New York State Chapter 1 of the American Academy of Pediatrics
New York State Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics
New York State Chapter 3 of the American Academy of Pediatrics
North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors
North Carolina Citizens for Public Health
North Carolina Pediatric Society
North Carolina Public Health Association
North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
North East Medical Services of San Francisco
Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium
Northern Michigan Vaccine Preventable Disease Task Force
Northwest Health Law Advocates
Northwestern Access to Health Project, Center for International Human Rights, Northwestern
Pritzker School of Law
NYIT College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Oregon Health & Science University
Oregon Public Health Association
Oregon Pediatric Society
Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine
Parent Voices California
Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Prevent Child Abuse New York
r Kids Family Center New Haven, Connecticut
Respiratory Health Association of Chicago
RESULTS Metro Maryland
RESULTS Texas
Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Schenectady Inner City Ministry
School-Based Health Alliance of Arkansas
South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society
South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network of New Jersey
Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Tennessee Justice Center
Texas Pediatric Society
The Children's Agenda of New York
The Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society
The Latino Health Insurance Program, Inc. of Massachusetts
The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
United Way of Illinois
Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Voices for Children of San Antonio
Voices for Ohio's Children
Voices for Virginia's Children
Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition of Arizona
West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wisconsin Council on Children and Families
Wisconsin Public Health Association
Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics