



January 17, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chair  
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander, Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Murray, and Ranking Member Wyden:

Vaccines are one of the greatest success stories in public health and are among the most cost-effective ways to prevent disease. Indeed, we know that for each dollar invested in the U.S. childhood immunization program, there are over ten dollars of societal savings and three dollars in direct medical savings. Moreover, it is [estimated](#) that the benefits which will be accrued from the Vaccines For Children Program for children born over the first twenty years of the program will prevent 322 million illnesses, 21 million hospitalizations, 732,000 deaths, and nearly \$1.4 trillion in societal costs.

While immunization rates remain high for children, pockets of undervaccinated communities remain at risk of deadly vaccine-preventable diseases. Immunization rates for adolescents and adults remain woefully low, leaving them vulnerable to diseases including several deadly cancers, and to serving as vectors for the transmission of deadly diseases, such as pertussis to young children. It has been [reported](#) that the U.S. spends nearly \$27 billion annually treating four vaccine-preventable diseases that afflict adults over 50 years of age: influenza, pertussis, pneumococcal disease and shingles.

Costly outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases continue to challenge the nation's public health system. In the past three years 904 Americans were diagnosed with highly contagious measles, 4,625 cases of mumps were detected and pertussis (which is particularly deadly to infants) was diagnosed in more than 67,000 people. In addition, each year, more than 200,000 individuals are hospitalized and 3,000 - 49,000 deaths occur from influenza-related complications.

As the nominee for the Secretary of Health and Human Services it is our hope that Chairman Tom Price will support our nation's public health infrastructure by fostering investments in the science and technology that informs our national immunization policy, providing a safety net to uninsured poor adults for vaccine purchases, monitoring the safety of vaccines, educating providers and performing community outreach, and conducting surveillance, laboratory testing, and epidemiology to respond to disease outbreaks.

As you work through the confirmation process, we urge you to ensure that Chairman Price is committed to protecting the citizens of this nation from vaccine preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

**Alliance for Aging Research**  
**American Academy of Family Physicians**  
**American Academy of Pediatrics**  
**American Association for Dental Research**  
**American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy**  
**American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians**  
**American College of Preventive Medicine**  
**American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists**  
**American Immunization Registry Association**  
**American Pharmacists Association**  
**American Public Health Association**  
**American Sexual Health Association**  
**American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association**  
**American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology**  
**American Society for Reproductive Medicine**  
**American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene**  
**Arizona Partnership for Immunization**  
**Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology**  
**Association of Immunization Managers**  
**Association of Public Health Laboratories**  
**Autism Science Foundation**  
**Boost Oregon**  
**California Academy of Family Physicians**  
**California Immunization Coalition**  
**Center for Vaccine Awareness and Research, Texas Children's Hospital**  
**Center for Vaccine Ethics and Policy/GE2P2 Global Foundation**  
**Central Oklahoma Immunization Coalition**  
**Cervivor**  
**Columbia County Immunization Coalition - Wisconsin**  
**Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.**

**Coulee Region Immunization Coalition - Wisconsin**  
**Emily Stillman Foundation**  
**EverThrive Illinois**  
**Every Child By Two – Carter/Bumpers Champions for Immunization**  
**Families Fighting Flu**  
**FIND - Switzerland**  
**Gerontological Society of America**  
**Green County Health Department - Wisconsin**  
**Gregg County Health Department - Texas**  
**Head and Neck Cancer Alliance**  
**Hep B United**  
**Hepatitis B Foundation**  
**Immunization Action Coalition**  
**Immunization Action Coalition of Washington**  
**Immunization Coalition of Washington, DC**  
**Immunization Collaboration of Tarrant County - Texas**  
**Immunize Kansas Coalition**  
**Immunize Nevada**  
**Immunization Partnership - Texas**  
**Indiana Immunization Coalition**  
**Infectious Diseases Society of America**  
**International AIDS Vaccine Initiative**  
**International Vaccine Institute**  
**Iowa County Health Department**  
**Kelsey-Seybold Clinic**  
**LA BioMed/South LA Health Projects**  
**Langlade County Immunization Coalition - Wisconsin**  
**March of Dimes**  
**Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**  
**Meningitis Angels**  
**Mid America Immunization Coalition**  
**Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**  
**Minnesota Childhood Immunization Coalition**  
**National Association of County and City Health Officials**  
**National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners**  
**National Association of School Nurses**  
**National Consumers League**  
**National Foundation for Infectious Diseases**  
**National Meningitis Association**  
**National Network of Public Health Institutes**  
**National Recreation and Park Association**

**Novavax**

**Ocean State Immunization Collaborative**

**Ohio State Univ. Comprehensive Cancer Center/James Cancer Hospital &  
Solove Research Institute**

**PATH**

**Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society**

**Pierce County Immunization Coalition – Washington**

**Public Health - Seattle & King County**

**Sabin Vaccine Institute**

**San Diego Immunization Coalition**

**Sheboygan County Immunization Coalition - Wisconsin**

**Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine**

**Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine**

**Southeast Minnesota Immunization Connection**

**Southern Wisconsin Immunization Consortium**

**TB Alliance**

**Team Maureen/Cervical Cancer-Free MA**

**Research Institute**

**Trust for America's Health**

**Vaccinate California**

**Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**

**VillageReach**

**Voices for Vaccines**

**Walgreens**

**Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**

**Washington Global Health Alliance**

**Washtenaw County Public Health**

**West Virginia Immunization Network**