



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

May 14, 2013

Ms. Amy Souders
Executive Director
Section 317 Coalition
c/o Cornerstone Government Affairs
300 Independence Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Ms. Souders:

On behalf of Secretary Sebelius, thank you for your letter supporting the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF) and recognition of the important role the Section 317 Immunization Program (Section 317) plays in maintaining high vaccine coverage rates and low rates of vaccine-preventable diseases. Your letter was forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for a response.

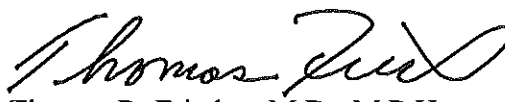
The Department of Health of Human Services (HHS) is committed to protecting the public from vaccine-preventable diseases. As you know, Section 317 is a public health program that serves and protects all Americans by providing critical public health infrastructure for the U.S. immunization system. While the provisions of the Affordable Care Act expand access to immunization services for more Americans, Section 317 ensures that the public health experts and systems at the local, state, and national levels continue to perform the essential public health functions that make immunization accessible, effective, and safe.

In fiscal year 2013, HHS has allocated \$90,883,000 from PPHF to Section 317 to help us achieve our national immunization goals. This funding is critical to meeting our Section 317 funding priorities:

- Preserving core public health immunization infrastructure at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Maintaining an adequate amount of vaccine purchase to provide a vaccination safety net for uninsured adults and for response to vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks and other vaccine-related urgent needs.
- Making strategic investments to enhance the immunization infrastructure and evidence base and improve efficiencies.

Thank you again for your letter and support of this important public health program.

Sincerely,


Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, CDC