
THE 317 COALITION

April 4, 2008

Dear _____:

As organizations committed to increasing the federal discretionary funding for the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (formerly the National Immunization Program) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), commonly known as “section 317” of the Public Health Service Act, we are writing to urge you to provide \$802 million in the fiscal year 2009 Labor, HHS Appropriations Bill for this critical program.

This program provides vaccines for children from working families who do not qualify for the federal entitlement program, Vaccines for Children (VFC), as well as for adolescents and adults. The 317 funds are used to purchase and administer vaccines, usually at local health departments, and for immunization delivery services, surveillance, communication, and education.

The CDC recently submitted a report to Congress indicating that almost \$1.2 billion, an increase of over \$662 million, is needed for the 317 Program in order to keep pace with new vaccines, expanded vaccine recommendations, operational funding needs, and enhanced vaccine safety activities.

Approximately 46,700 U.S. adults die annually of vaccine-preventable diseases. Influenza deaths account for approximately 36,000 of these and pneumonia and hepatitis B rank second and third in cause of adult deaths. Vaccines have been hailed as one of the most cost-effective public health measures, saving 35,000 lives and preventing 14 million cases of disease among each birth cohort. Vaccines have saved the lives of millions of people worldwide, yet they continue to be undervalued and under-funded year after year. The 317 Program ensures that children who cannot otherwise afford immunization can be vaccinated, and provides some access to vaccinations for uninsured and underinsured adolescents and adults. It is also our public health system’s primary source of funding for building a solid immunization infrastructure, which is needed for today’s vaccines and will be relied upon in the event of an influenza pandemic or other bioterrorist event.

Please join us in ensuring that all individuals have access to life-saving vaccines.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Academy of Physician Assistants
American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc.
American Immunization Registry Association

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c/o Cornerstone Govt. Affairs
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Washington, DC 20003

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American Liver Foundation
American Medical Association
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Emory Vaccine Center
Hepatitis B Foundation
Immunization Action Coalition
Meningitis Angels
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
Partnership for Prevention
PKIDS/Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases
Wyeth

State and Local Organizations

Adult Immunization Coalition of Tompkins County (Ithaca, NY)
Arizona Partnership for Immunization (AZ)
Boone County Health Department (IN)
Central Michigan District Health Department (Reed City, MI)
Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (Denver, CO)
Consortium for Healthy & Immunized Communities, Inc. (Northern OH)
Dearborn County Health Department (IN)
Division of Public Health, Dept. of Health and Human Services City of Portland, Maine (ME)
Every Child By Two of St. Joseph County (South Bend, IN)
Georgia AIDS Coalition (GA)
Georgia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (GA)
GetAFluShot.com (Washington and Oregon) (Portland, OR)
Greater Salt Lake Immunization Coalition (UT)
Howard County Health Department (Kokomo, IN)
IHA of Ann Arbor (MI)
Immunization Task Force – Metro Omaha (NE)
Indiana Immunization Coalition (IN)
Iowa Immunization Coalition (IA)
Nevada Immunization Coalitions (NV)
North Carolina Immunization Branch (NC)
Oklahoma County Immunization Coalition (OK)
Oregon Partnership to Immunize Children (OR)
Philadelphia Immunization Coalition (PIC) (Philadelphia, PA)
Professional Nursing Alliance (GA)
Rhode Island Department of Health (Providence, RI)
Saratoga County Public Health (NY)
Super Shot, Inc. (Fort Wayne, IN)
Tompkins County Health Department (NY)
Tulsa Area Immunization Coalition (OK)
University of Wisconsin Immunization Task Force (WI)
Washington Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (WA)
Wisconsin Chapter—American Academy of Pediatrics (Madison, WI)