

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health & Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James T. Walsh
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health & Human Services, and Education
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Congressman Walsh:

As your Subcommittee prepares to mark up the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill, we respectfully request your support to include \$802 million for the national immunization program authorized under section 317 of the Public Health Service Act at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective tools for preventing disease. For every dollar spent on vaccines, society saves up to \$27 in medical and societal costs.

The widespread use of vaccines is one of the most remarkable accomplishments in modern public health. The debilitating and deadly disease smallpox has been eradicated. Polio is on its way to being eliminated thanks to effective vaccines and public health efforts. Vaccines exist to prevent diseases such as meningitis, shingles, measles, chicken pox, tetanus, whooping cough, and many others. We now have a vaccine to protect against the human papillomavirus, which is known to cause cervical cancer.


The section 317 immunization program provides essential funding to state and local health departments for vaccinating children, adolescents and adults. It ensures that children who are not eligible for the Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program and who cannot otherwise afford immunization can be vaccinated. It also provides limited access to immunizations for uninsured and underinsured 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.

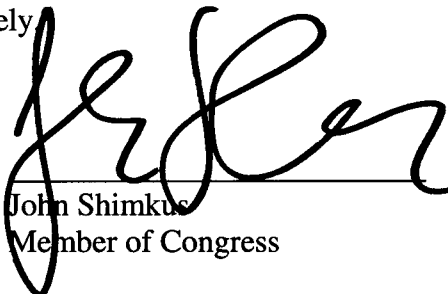
Unfortunately, the section 317 program does not receive sufficient funding to carry out its essential public health mission. We need our nation's population to be well-vaccinated so that they are less vulnerable to the risks of preventable diseases. For this reason, we request that the Committee provide the 317 Program with the funding it needs to ensure

access to cost-effective prevention measures once they become available and are endorsed by the public health and medical communities.

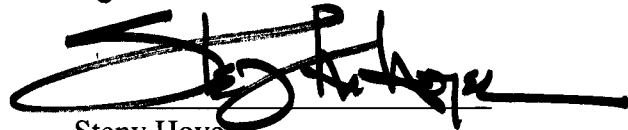
Thank you for your past leadership and support of efforts to extend access to life-saving vaccines for children, adolescents and vulnerable adults.

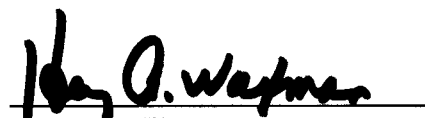
Sincerely

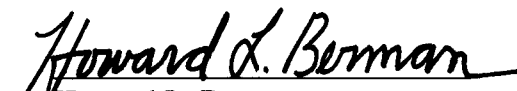

Gene Green
Member of Congress


John Shimkus
Member of Congress

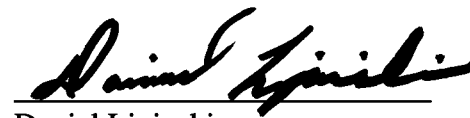

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Steny Hoyer
Member of Congress

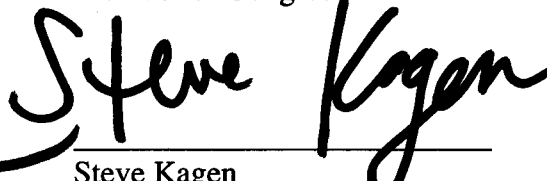

Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress


Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress


Bob Etheridge
Member of Congress



Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress



Dennis Moore
Member of Congress

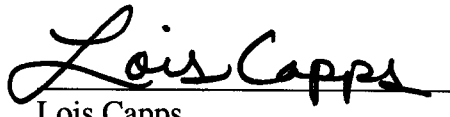

Steve Kagen
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

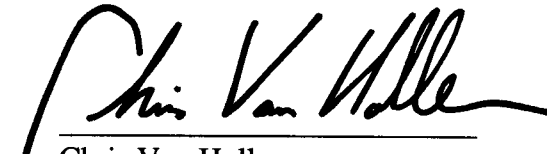

Nick J. Rahall, II
Member of Congress

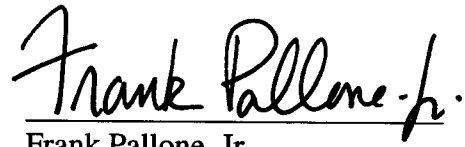

Leonard L. Boswell
Member of Congress

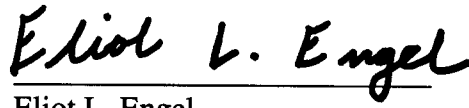

Stephanie Herseth
Member of Congress


Lois Capps
Member of Congress

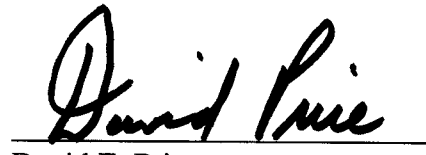

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

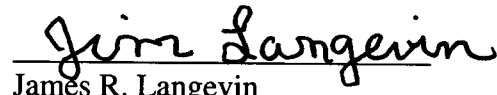

Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress

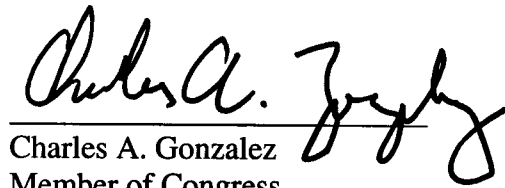

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

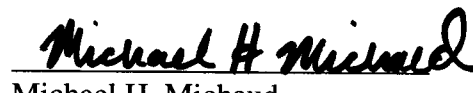

Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress



David E. Price
Member of Congress

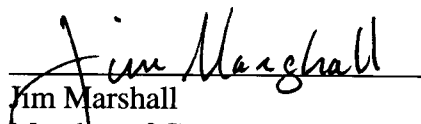

James R. Langevin
Member of Congress

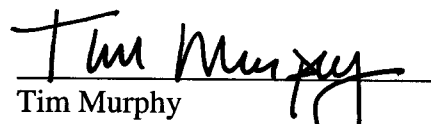

Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress

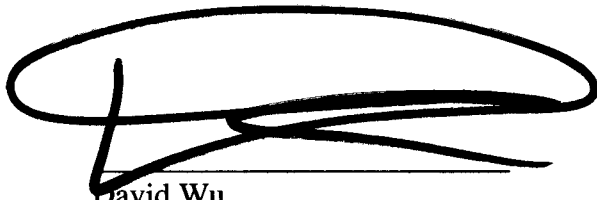

Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress


Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Jim Marshall
Member of Congress


Tim Murphy
Member of Congress



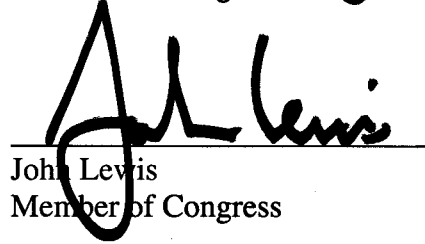
David Wu
Member of Congress



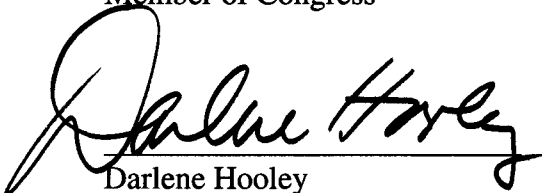
Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



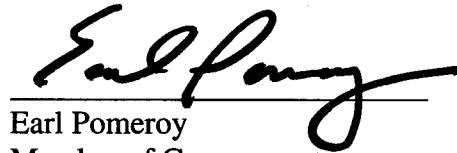
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



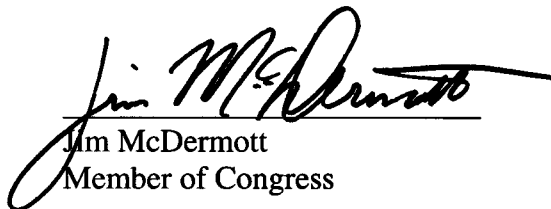
John Lewis
Member of Congress




Darlene Hooley
Member of Congress



Earl Pomeroy
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Neil Abercrombie