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# THE 317 COALITION

January 19, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the 317 Coalition, I am writing to respectfully request your continued support for the Section 317 Immunization Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Currently at least forty-five percent of the program is funded through the Affordable Care Act's Prevention and Public Health Fund. As a broad coalition that includes non-profit immunization advocacy organizations, academic institutions, professional associations, provider and patient groups and vaccine manufacturers, the 317 Coalition is deeply concerned that if the Fund is rescinded in repeal and replace efforts but alternative ways to fund this critical program are not identified it will severely undermine our nation's investment in proven public health and prevention programs.

The 317 Program provides funding to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five major cities and eight territories. It serves as a safety net program for underserved populations by providing grants to states for vaccines, while also supporting our nation's immunization capacity by monitoring the safety and efficacy of vaccines, building the science that informs our immunization policy and strengthening the epidemiology and laboratory capacity of all states. These activities would be decimated if the Prevention Fund resources are rescinded without a corresponding increase in the allocation for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill.

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, childhood immunizations over the past twenty years have prevented 322 million illnesses, 732,000 deaths, and nearly \$1.4 trillion in societal costs. Repealing the Prevention Fund without a clear plan for replacement not only damages the health of our nation, but our economy as well – the direct medical cost of vaccine-preventable diseases is estimated at \$10 billion annually, while it can cost over \$140,000 to contain just one individual case of measles.

We strongly urge you to sustain current investments in public health and prevention.

Sincerely,

Every Child by Two  
Immunization Action Coalition  
National Association of County and City Health Officials

**317**

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