



March 13, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services,
Education and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Baldwin, Chairman Aderholt, and Ranking Members Capito and DeLauro,

As members of the Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC), we write to ask for increased funding of immunization-related activities at the Department of Health and Human Services as part of the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS), and Education Appropriations bill.

A vaccinated population saves American families and our country money—and keeps us healthy. Disease outbreaks within and across communities cause disruptions to our daily routines, school, work, and social activities. They also come at a significant cumulative cost to our economy. Every year, the US spends \$26.5 billion treating adults for diseases that could have been prevented through vaccination. These vaccine-preventable diseases drive unnecessary health spending, such as avoidable hospitalizations, expensive health interventions, and additional physician visits and medication costs. These illnesses can also cause individuals to miss work and leave them unable to care for those who depend on them.

Underlying these costs and negative health outcomes is a trend showing a drop in already low adult immunization rates for several preventable diseases.¹

With this in mind, we ask the Committee to strongly support the following funding levels for immunization efforts:

\$1.6 billion for the National Immunization Program. The immunization program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) provides foundational support for state and local health departments to carry out a variety of activities vital to the prevention, detection, and mitigation of vaccine-preventable conditions. This ask is in line with the CDC's professional judgement for Fiscal Year 2024², which provided estimates necessary for a comprehensive, life course immunization program. The immunization infrastructure activities funded through this program support a number of important vaccine purchase and program operations, including: access to recommended vaccines across the life course, surveillance and detection, emergency disease outbreak response, safety and effectiveness studies, education and outreach, and implementation of evidence-based community interventions. The resources provided under the immunization program are vital to states, territories, and local jurisdictions across the country, many of whom rely solely on these core funds to support their essential immunization infrastructure and activities.

\$241 million for Influenza Planning and Response at CDC's NCIRD. CDC's Influenza Planning and Response programs help to protect the United States from seasonal influenza and pandemic influenza. Each winter, influenza causes millions of illnesses and hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations. This winter is no different, with flu activity elevated nationally causing at least 20 million illnesses, 230,000 hospitalizations, and 14,000 deaths from flu so far this season³. Providing \$241 million for the program will ensure CDC has the resources necessary to address the continual threats posed by seasonal and pandemic influenza.

\$150 million for CDC's Division of Viral Hepatitis. The National Viral Hepatitis Strategic Plan calls for the elimination of hepatitis A (HAV), B (HBV), and C as public health threats in the United States.⁴ HAV and HBV have a safe and highly effective vaccine that can prevent infection. In 2021, the Advisory Committee Immunization Practices (ACIP) made a paradigm shift from a risk-based recommendation to a routine recommendation that all adults between 19 and 59 be vaccinated for HBV. Currently, only 25% of adults are vaccinated for HBV. With this new recommendation there is an opportunity to bring our nation closer to eliminating HBV but requires sufficient funding to implement these important screening and vaccination recommendations.

¹ <https://www.vaccinetrack.com/Trend?tab=gap>

² Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate [Report to Congress on Section 317 Immunization Program Cost Estimates](#).

³ Influenza report ending Jan 27, 2024. [Weekly US Map: Influenza Summary Update | CDC](#)

⁴ <https://www.hhs.gov/hepatitis/viral-hepatitis-national-strategic-plan/index.html>

As you begin to consider funding during the FY 2025 appropriations cycle, it is important to remember that Congress made vital emergency investments in vaccine infrastructure over the past 4 years. It is essential that our nation leverage these substantial investments and improvements in state, local and tribal immunization infrastructure, including data, personnel, and community outreach to help mitigate future disease threats, prevent severe illness, and reduce hospitalizations, morbidity, and mortality.

We look forward to working with your office as the FY25 appropriations process gets underway. For further information, please contact the AVAC managers [at kpischke@adultvaccinesnow.org](mailto:kpischke@adultvaccinesnow.org).

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research
AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, Inc
American Academy of Family Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association
American Immunization Registry Association
American Pharmacists Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Association of Immunization Managers
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Occupational Health Nurses
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
CSL Seqirus
Dynavax
Families Fighting Flu
Gerontological Society of America
GSK
HealthyWomen
Hep B United
Hepatitis B Foundation
Hepatitis Education Project
Immunize.org
Infectious Diseases Society of America
Kimberly Coffey Foundation

March of Dimes
Merck & Co Inc.
Moderna
National Association of City and County Health Officials
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Black Nurses Association
National Consumers League
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Minority Quality Forum
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
Novavax
Pfizer
STC Health
The AIDS Institute
Trust for America's Health
UnidosUS
Vaccinate Your Family
Valneva USA
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease