



August 19, 2020

The Honorable Lauren Underwood
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Underwood:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 136,700 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to express our support for the *Community Immunity During COVID-19 Act* (HR 8061).

The *Community Immunity During COVID-19 Act* supports vaccine awareness activities at the state and local level. The legislation also requires the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to develop and disseminate novel coronavirus (COVID-19) immunization counseling guidance.

If enacted, HR 8091 will lay the groundwork for an eventual COVID-19 vaccine by supporting immunization confidence efforts. The legislation recognizes that a patient-centered medical home is an ideal setting for outreach activities and for discussing each person's unique health status. This is especially vital when considering the needs of individuals with chronic conditions, those who are pregnant, or older adults who may be at high risk for both traditional infectious diseases, like influenza, as well as for contracting severe COVID-19.

The legislation's CDC clinical guidance language is also important because it acknowledges that evidence-based patient education resources can bolster physicians' counseling. As primary care doctors we also know that boosting vaccine confidence will require shared decision making, strong recommendations, and a relationship with a trusted medical professional. HR 8091 provides key resources to encourage those activities.

Again, the AAFP appreciates your leadership on this important issue. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay (sclay@aafp.org) in the AAFP's Government Relations Division.

Sincerely,

John S. Cullen, MD, FAAFP
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