



April 7, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Senate Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
House Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Capito and Aderholt and Ranking Members Baldwin and DeLauro,

As members of the Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC), we write to ask for your support of immunization-related activities at the Department of Health and Human Services as part of the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations (LHHS) 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. Vaccine preventable 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

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

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

\$1.1 billion for the National Immunization Program. The immunization program at the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides foundational funding and expertise for state and local health departments to carry out a variety of activities vital to the prevention, detection, and mitigation of vaccine-preventable conditions.

The immunization activities funded through this program support a number of important operations, including: vaccine purchase, disease detection, outbreak response, safety monitoring, provider and patient education and outreach. The resources provided through 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 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, hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations and thousands of deaths. This winter is no different, with flu activity elevated nationally causing at least 41 million illnesses, 540,000 hospitalizations, and 23,000 deaths from flu so far this season². 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.³ HAV and HBV have a safe and highly effective vaccine that can prevent infection. In 2021, the Advisory Committee Immunization Practices (ACIP) updated the HBV recommendation from risk-based to a routine recommendation for all adults between 19 and 59. Currently, only 25% of adults are vaccinated for HBV. The updated recommendation there is an opportunity to bring our nation closer to eliminating HBV but requires sufficient funding to successfully implement.

As you begin to consider funding during the FY 2026 appropriations cycle, it is essential that our nation sustain and improve investments in state, local and tribal immunization activities, to help mitigate future disease threats, prevent severe illness, and reduce hospitalizations, morbidity, and mortality.

² Influenza report ending March 8, 2025. [Weekly US Map: Influenza Summary Update | CDC](#)

³ <https://www.hhs.gov/hepatitis/viral-hepatitis-national-strategic-plan/index.html>

We look forward to working with your office as the FY26 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 Preventive Medicine
American Heart Association
American Immunization Registry Association
American Pharmacists Association
American Public Health Association
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
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
Big Cities Health Coalition
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 County and City 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