

April 7, 2017

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of our 161,000 members, we respectfully ask you to delegate the task of reviewing and making any policy recommendations about the safety and effectiveness of vaccines to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Administering vaccines to stimulate a person's immune system is one of the most effective methods of preventing infectious diseases. In fact, the widespread use of vaccines has eradicated smallpox and significantly reduced the incidence of polio, measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, and a host of other preventable diseases. Over time, vaccinations have saved countless lives and billions of dollars in medical costs.

Unfortunately, American adults are less likely today than they were in 2001 to say vaccines are extremely important. Nine percent believe vaccines are more dangerous than the diseases they were designed to prevent.¹ Those fears are largely based on years of shoddy research, naïve media reporting, proclamations from celebrities and politicians with no medical or scientific background and an abundance of misinformation on the Internet.^{2,3,4,5,6}

People need to know that the medical advice they are receiving is from a trustworthy source. From a scientific perspective, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices is well-suited to judge the integrity of vaccine studies and make recommendations about their use.

ACIP is a longstanding federal advisory committee comprised of reputable and well-credentialed experts in vaccinology, immunology, pediatrics, internal medicine, nursing, family medicine, virology, public health, infectious diseases, and preventive medicine. Its sole purpose is to examine the safety and effectiveness of vaccines and develop recommendations for their use. Moreover, its members go through a complex vetting process to avoid potential conflicts of interest and the likelihood of bias in decision making.

ACIP is the best qualified group to scrutinize the scientific literature on vaccines, put the results in context and provide unbiased recommendations to you, your administration and the American public. For that reason, we urge you to delegate the task of reviewing and making any policy recommendations about the safety and effectiveness of vaccines to ACIP.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert J. Burns at 202-789-5176 or burnsr@ada.org.

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Sincerely,

/s/

Gary L. Roberts, D.D.S.
President

/s/

Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director

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¹ Frank Newport, "In U.S., Percentage Saying Vaccines Are Vital Dips Slightly," *Gallup*, March 6, 2015, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/181844/percentage-saying-vaccines-vital-dips-slightly.aspx>.

² Editors of *The Lancet*, "Retraction—Ileal-lymphoid-nodular hyperplasia, non-specific colitis, and pervasive developmental disorder in children," *Lancet* 375, no. 9713 (February 2010): 445.

³ Brian Deer, "How the case against the MMR vaccine was fixed," *British Medical Journal* 342 (January 8, 2011): 77-82.

⁴ Dennis Flaherty, "The vaccine-autism connection: a public health crisis caused by unethical medical practices and fraudulent science," *Annals of Pharmacotherapy* 45, no. 10 (October 2011): 1302-4.

⁵ Jim Edwards, "Rolling Stone Retracts Autism Article, but Lots of Junk Journalism Remains," *CBS News*, January 22, 2011, <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/rolling-stone-retracts-autism-article-but-lots-of-junk-journalism-remains>.

⁶ Frontline, *The Vaccine War*, documentary, produced and directed by Jon Palfreman and Kate McMahon, written by Jon Palfreman, Public Broadcasting Service (WGBH-Boston), March 24, 2015.