

Dear Members of Congress,

As organizations representing medical professionals, the public health community and individuals who are immunocompromised, we have been encouraged by Congress' interest in doing more to stop current vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks and prevent more from occurring.

Vaccines have led to the elimination of polio, measles and rubella from the United States. However, a confluence of vaccine hesitancy and access issues has led to decreases in vaccination rates and subsequent outbreaks. The 2017-2018 influenza season resulted in over 79,000 deaths,¹ including 185 children, most of whom were unvaccinated.² This number represents more deaths from the flu than any single season since the 1970s. As of April 4, 465 cases of measles have been confirmed in 19 states.³

Idaho Immunization Coalition
Immune Deficiency Foundation