



May 23, 2019

The Honorable Kim Schrier, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess, MD  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schrier and Burgess:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to share our support for bipartisan legislation that you introduced, H.R. 2862, the Vaccine Awareness Campaign to Champion Immunization Nationally and Enhance Safety (VACCINES) Act. We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation to improve the rate of vaccinations in this country through increased awareness of the public health benefits of immunizations.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 154,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

The Vaccines Act would provide federal funding for vaccine hesitancy surveillance at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and outline a national public messaging campaign informed by this research to help improve vaccination rates. It would give the CDC the resources it needs to understand what drives vaccine hesitancy, track where there are changes in vaccine confidence, coverage and refusal rates, and predict where vaccines may be underutilized.

ACP firmly believes that allowing exemptions based on non-medical reasons poses a risk to public health and our patients. As physicians, we've seen first-hand how vaccines save lives and make patients healthier by preventing life-threatening diseases and illnesses. Vaccines, which have been repeatedly demonstrated to be safe, have been part of the fabric of our society for decades and are one of the most significant medical innovations of our time—to undermine them would be to put the public's health at risk, as well as individuals who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.

We applaud you on introducing this legislation to help increase confidence in vaccines to improve the public health of our patients and our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert M. McLean', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert M. McLean, MD, FACP  
President