

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 5, 2015

Dear Colleague:

Vaccines are one of the most successful public health interventions in modern times and are among the most cost-effective ways to prevent disease. Simply put, vaccines save lives, and that is why we must fight all efforts to undermine the Prevention and Public Health Fund (the Fund), including the Fund's investment in immunizations.

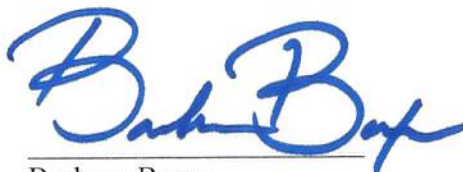
Each dollar invested in the U.S. childhood immunization program saves more than ten dollars for society and three dollars in direct medical savings. We also know that childhood immunizations over the past twenty years alone have prevented 322 million illnesses, 732,000 deaths, and nearly \$1.4 trillion in societal costs.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund, the federal government's single largest investment in prevention, strengthens federal programs that are critical to ensuring effective, safe and timely vaccines in all states and territories. The Fund supports the 317 Immunization Program, which serves as a safety net, facilitating vaccine purchases for uninsured Americans, monitoring the safety of vaccines, and responding to disease outbreaks, including the ongoing measles outbreak, as state and local health departments work with CDC to determine who is at risk, conduct contact tracing and investigation, and rapidly offer vaccinations to at-risk unvaccinated populations.

Here are some examples of work being supported by the Fund:

- The Ohio immunization program supplied 15,240 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine to 28 different county health departments with 317 funding supported by the Fund.
- The California immunization program played a major role in the 2015 multi-state measles outbreak linked to an amusement park in California that sickened 117 people. California health officials used 317 funding supported by the Fund to supply 4,930 doses of MMR vaccine to county health departments.
- The Rhode Island Health Department used 317 funding supported by the Fund to build immunization program capacity to respond to the 2012 pertussis (whooping cough) outbreak that sickened 29 individuals in Rhode Island. The Rhode Island State Health Department led case investigations, identified close contacts, and held a vaccination clinic administering 1,088 Tdap vaccines and 146 seasonal influenza vaccines.

As we work to strengthen our health care system, we must maintain investments in areas such as the immunization programs that help protect people from getting sick in the first place. That is why we ask for your support of the Prevention and Public Health Fund and the programs it supports.



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Chris Coons

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Patty Murray

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Tom Udall

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Al Franken

Al Franken
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Dick Durbin

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Ben Cardin

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Brian Schatz

Brian Schatz
United States Senator