

National Headquarters
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May 16, 2018

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) please accept this letter in support of the American Pharmacists Association's (APhA) application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) titled ***"Improving Implementation of Immunization Practice Standards by National Pharmacy Organizations - Financed Solely by PPHF 2018 Prevention and Public Health Funds"*** (CDC-RFA-IP18-1803PPHF18). As a recognized leader and promoter within the immunization neighborhood, APhA is actively engaged in working with immunization stakeholders, like our organization, to achieve collaboration, coordination and communication among members of the community. APhA's promotion of immunization best practices to its more than 63,000 pharmacy professionals, and other immunization stakeholders is supporting the building of immunization neighborhoods to serve communities across the lifespan. Their experiences, expertise, reach and collaboration abilities support their case as an invaluable partner to the CDC for ensuring patients are up-to-date on recommended immunizations. APhA's past participation in CDC cooperative agreements and other activities has created immeasurable opportunities for pharmacists to engage with and become valuable participants in immunization activities including advocacy, education, and administration. These factors are also why we are providing this letter of support.

As a national organization, ASTHO works with its members to formulate and influence sound public health policy and ensure excellence in state-based public health practice. ASTHO's primary function is to track, evaluate, and advise members on the impact and formation of public or private health policy which may affect them and to provide them with guidance and technical assistance on improving the nation's health. APhA has been an important partner to ASTHO in the past, our organizations have collaborated on immunizations, emergency response activities planning and developing memoranda of understanding between state health agencies and pharmacies to distribute vaccinations during an emergency and promoting immunization registry system implementation.

ASTHO is pleased to support APhA and, if the proposed project is funded, intends to facilitate introductions to state-level membership for participation in multi-sectoral meetings, and to serve as an advisor for coordinating stakeholder engagement in state-level meetings and for sharing immunization resources through established communication channels. We welcome this opportunity to partner with APhA to advance this work in cooperation with pharmacy professionals.

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We firmly believe APhA's past work and unwavering focus on improving public health, medication use and advancing patient care will continue to ensure a higher level of "immunization collaboration" both on a state and national level across adolescents and adults. We are therefore very pleased to offer our continuing partnership and support to APhA and their proposal to the CDC to improve immunization collaboration among pharmacists and other healthcare providers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Fraser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Fraser, PhD MS CAE FCPP
Executive Director
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials