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www.astho.org  
@ASTHO

May 18, 2018

Stephanie Thomas  
ACIP Committee Management Specialist  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Rd. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Ms. Thomas,

It is with great pleasure that the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) submits this letter in support of the nomination of Nathaniel H. Smith, MD, MPH, DTM&H, to the Advisory Committee of Immunization Practices (ACIP). Dr. Smith's experience as a State Health Official and his expertise in adult infectious disease and internal medicine will be an invaluable asset to the ACIP.

ASTHO is a national non-profit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

Dr. Smith's professional career has provided him with a wealth of experience in public health that is applicable to the ACIP's work both in issuing immunization recommendations and in understanding the broader context and considerations relevant to the recommendations. Dr. Smith was appointed to his current position as Director and State Health Officer of the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) in 2013. In this capacity, Dr. Smith has direct responsibility for all aspects of public health programming in the state of Arkansas, including immunization, epidemiology, and emergency preparedness. Dr. Smith has a wide and varied career and experience in public health previously serving as the medical director for infectious disease at ADH, the state epidemiologist at ADH, and as a professor of Epidemiology at the College of Public Health, UAMS. In addition to his domestic public health experience, Dr. Smith served as the Senior Medical Technical Advisor for East Africa and the Country Medical Director for Kenya for the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Institute of Human Virology in Kenya.

Dr. Smith has been active in a number of boards and committees both within ASTHO and nationally. He has served a 4-year term on the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC), co-chairing both the National Vaccine Plan Midcourse Review Working Group and the HPV Working Group. He has served as the chair of the Infectious Disease Policy Committee for over 3 years and continues to serve on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Surveillance Working Group for the CDC Board of Scientific Counselors.

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Dr. Smith's unique perspective as a State Health Official is unique to the current ACIP membership, and will help inform his, and the Committee's deliberations and understanding of the implications of the immunization recommendations. Because immunization programs are a primary responsibility of state public health agencies, it is critical for ACIP to have the benefit of the perspective of the State Health Official. While the Committee currently has state-based representation, many of the Committee's recommendations will be implemented by the states, and certain implications of these recommendations may not be readily apparent to individuals other than a State Health Official. Dr. Smith's current experience as a State Health Official and his wide and varied public health experience will allow him to provide a unique perspective to the Committee.

Thank you for giving full consideration to his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Wiesman".

John M. Wiesman, DrPH, MPH  
ASTHO President  
Secretary of Health  
Washington State Department of Health