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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois Pediatricians and Family Physicians Stand Together for Evidence-Based Childhood Immunization

The Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP) and Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP), representing physicians who care for children and families throughout Illinois, stand united in support of childhood immunization recommendations grounded in rigorous scientific evidence.

Recent federal efforts to significantly alter longstanding childhood vaccine recommendations, without new scientific evidence to support those changes, threaten to create more confusion at precisely the wrong time.

Vaccines are among the most thoroughly studied and effective tools available to prevent serious illness, disability and death. Decades of research and clinical experience support their safety and effectiveness. When children receive recommended immunizations on time, they receive protection when they need it most – and schools, families and communities are healthier and contagious diseases are harder to spread.

While the vast majority of parents still choose to vaccinate their children, any decline in vaccination rates is concerning. Vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles and whooping cough are resurging. Undermining confidence in proven science and evidence on the safety and effectiveness of immunizations carries serious public health consequences.

Illinois families should continue to have conversations with their pediatricians and family physicians and make health decisions based on trusted, evidence-based medical guidance, not rumors

Our message to Illinois families is clear: We will continue to follow the evidence, answer your questions and advocate for the health and safety of your children.

ICAAP and IAFP stand together with our national organizations, the American Academy of Pediatrics and American Academy of Family Physicians, in defending evidence-based medicine and the integrity of the physician-patient relationship.

ICAAP and IAFP Letter to the Editor

As pediatricians and family physicians caring for children across Illinois, we share a fundamental responsibility: to give families medical guidance grounded in the best available evidence.

Vaccines remain one of the safest and most effective tools we have to prevent serious illness, disability and death. Decades of research and experience caring for millions of children support the recommendations on vaccine timing. These recommendations are based on how kids' immune systems develop and learn. There is no new scientific evidence that warrants abandoning that foundation.

At a time when routine immunization rates are declining and measles and other preventable diseases are re-emerging, introducing doubt about proven vaccines has real consequences. Concern and confusion fueled by rumors, not science, can lead to delayed or missed vaccinations, leaving individual children and entire communities more vulnerable.

Parents deserve clear, reliable information. They also deserve the opportunity to ask questions and make decisions with physicians who know their children, their families and their health histories. Parents should know that thankfully, at this time, nothing has changed around access to or insurance coverage of vaccines in Illinois.

As leaders of Illinois' primary care communities, we stand together in support of evidence-based immunization recommendations and the physicians who put that evidence into practice every day. One child becoming ill or dying from a preventable disease is too many in our eyes. Politics should not determine medical care - science, evidence and the physician-patient relationship should.

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