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NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY & CITY
HEALTH OFFICIALS

September 22, 2005

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waxman:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I am pleased to offer our support for the Vaccine Access and Supply Act of 2005. This measure addresses many obstacles to achieving high immunization rates that will protect our nation from vaccine-preventable disease and death.

Local public health departments play key roles in maximizing immunization rates in their communities, particularly among vulnerable populations such as young children, the elderly, and all those with higher risk of severe illness and death from vaccine-preventable diseases. They monitor vaccine supplies in their communities, work with health care providers to redistribute vaccine in times of shortage, provide immunizations when necessary, and assure that health care providers and residents of their communities have timely, accurate, and consistent information about immunization.

NACCHO recommends that the nation set a national goal for universal influenza immunization. We believe that achieving that goal ultimately is the best solution for sustaining a larger and more consistent vaccine supply and protecting the public from influenza's great and costly toll of preventable disease and death. It would also better prepare us to deal with an influenza pandemic. Your proposal for a new adult vaccine program would help to move us in that direction by enhancing financial access to immunizations among uninsured and under-insured adults.

We look forward to continuing work with you and others concerned about sustaining and increasing both childhood and adult immunization rates to establish sound and practical national policy.

NACCHO is the national organization representing the nation's nearly 3,000 local public health departments. These agencies work every day on the front lines to protect and promote the health of their communities. NACCHO develops resources

and programs and promotes national policies that support effective local public health practice.

Thank you for your outstanding leadership in public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rex Archer, MD, MPH
President