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Leading Physician Groups Remain Unwavering Champions of Vaccines

The statement below is issued by the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, and American Osteopathic Association:

"Our organizations, representing more than 500,000 physicians, reflect a strong medical consensus that vaccines are safe, effective and save lives. Any attempts to discredit and undermine vaccines open the door for debilitating diseases that once caused serious illness, hospitalization and death for millions of people to make a comeback.

There must be a strong, united front in support of vaccines and public health. Misinformation, dangerous politicization of commonsense public health efforts and sudden, confusing changes to federal vaccine guidance are eroding trust in public health and life saving vaccines. The U.S. currently faces the highest number of cases of measles in 33 years – reversing the course of this preventable disease since it was declared eliminated in the U.S. Finally, we are quickly approaching another respiratory season during which flu, RSV and COVID-19 will threaten infants, seniors, pregnant patients, those with underlying health needs and those who live with and care for these individuals.

To our public health leaders in Congress: you must protect public health and ensure vaccines remain available, accessible and affordable to all."

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About the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

The AAFP is the largest national association of family physicians, representing 128,300 physicians and medical students. Family medicine's cornerstone is an ongoing, personal patient-physician relationship focused on impactful care for people of all ages, races and genders across all medical conditions. The AAFP supports every stage of a family physician's career and provides evidence-based resources, advocacy and community to empower family medicine. To learn more, visit aafp.org. For information about health care, medical conditions and wellness, please visit the AAFP's patient education website, familydoctor.org.

About the American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults.

About the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) is the nation's leading group of physicians providing evidence-based obstetric and gynecologic care. As a private, voluntary, nonprofit membership organization of more than

60,000 members, ACOG strongly advocates for equitable, exceptional, and respectful care for all women and people in need of obstetric and gynecologic care; maintains the highest standards of clinical practice and continuing education of its members; promotes patient education; and increases awareness among its members and the public of the changing issues facing patients and their families and communities. acog.org

About the American College of Physicians

The <u>American College of Physicians</u> is the largest medical specialty organization in the United States with members in more than 172 countries worldwide. ACP membership includes 161,000 internal medicine physicians, related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Follow ACP on X, Facebook, Instagram, Threads and LinkedIn.

About the American Osteopathic Association

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) represents more than 197,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students; promotes public health; encourages scientific research; and serves as the primary certifying body for DOs. To learn more about Dos and the osteopathic philosophy of medicine, visit www.osteopathic.org.