

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2015

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., MPH
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Frieden:

We are writing in support of giving due consideration to granting a recommendation for universal use of vaccines preventing serogroup B Meningococcal disease (MenB) in the young adult population.

In the last few years, students have been infected with or died from MenB at Kalamazoo College, Princeton University, the University of California Santa Barbara, Georgetown University, the University of Oregon, Providence College, San Diego State University, Yale University, Drexel University, Lehigh University, the University of Colorado, the University of Maryland, and the University of Wisconsin. Approximately 25 percent of college freshmen are carriers for the disease, making it easy for the disease to spread once a student has contracted it.

We are pleased the Center for Disease Control's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently recommended the use of two approved MenB vaccines in high-risk individuals and during outbreaks. However, limiting use of the vaccines to these instances will create a significant barrier to access the vaccine. In this scenario, private insurance companies and public health initiatives like the Vaccines for Children program will not cover the costs of the vaccine, limiting access to only those individuals who have the means to pay out-of-pocket or are unfortunate enough to attend a university with an outbreak.

All parents should be able to give their children the vaccine prior to an outbreak without worrying about financial or other barriers. We urge the CDC and ACIP to give due consideration to granting a universal use recommendation in the young adult population for MenB vaccines at its June 24 meeting to ensure that this is possible. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



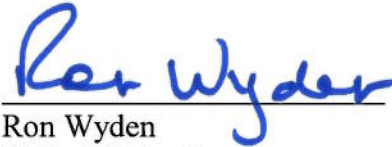
Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



Al Franken
United States Senator



John Kline
Member of Congress



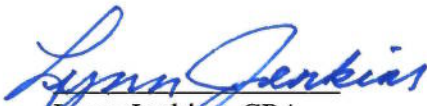
Ron Wyden
United States Senator




Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Gary Peters
United States Senator



Lynn Jenkins, CPA
Member of Congress



Timothy J. Walz
Member of Congress

Cc: Larry K. Pickering, M.D., Senior Advisor, National Center for Immunization & Respiratory Diseases, CDC
Anne Schuchat, M.D., Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, CDC