

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
U.S. House of Representatives
2209 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mazie K. Hirono
U.S. Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Johnson, Congresswoman Meng, and Senator Hirono,

We write to thank you for your leadership in introducing the resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to designate April 30 as National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day (H. Res. 331/S. Res. 177). Our organizations support this resolution and efforts to increase adult hepatitis B vaccination rates, particularly within the setting of the opioid epidemic.

We would also like to thank Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick, Barbara Lee, John Lewis, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Raul Grijalva, Bonnie Watson Coleman, and Judy Chu, as well as Senator Angus King for co-sponsoring this important resolution.

It is estimated that up to 2.2 million individuals are living with chronic hepatitis B in the United States. While hepatitis B is a vaccine preventable disease, and universal childhood hepatitis B vaccination has been recommended in the United States since the 1990s, only 25 percent of adults over the age of 19 are vaccinated against hepatitis B.

Nationwide, newly diagnosed cases of hepatitis B rose 20 percent in 2015, with significant regional rises, largely driven by the opioid epidemic, in conjunction with extremely low adult hepatitis B vaccination rates. Acute hepatitis B increased 729 percent in Maine from 2015-2017, 114 percent in Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia from 2009-2013, 78 percent in southeastern Massachusetts in 2017, and 62 percent in North Carolina from 2012-2016.

With no cure, but a safe and effective vaccine available to prevent hepatitis B, it is essential to develop strategies to increase adult hepatitis B vaccination, maintain childhood hepatitis B vaccination, and prevent new infections and complications associated with chronic hepatitis B infection, including liver cancer, liver failure, and cirrhosis.

We commend you for your work to increase awareness of the need to increase adult hepatitis B vaccination rates by designating April 30 as National Adult Hepatitis B Vaccination Awareness Day. We

are inspired by your leadership on this important issue and look forward to supporting your efforts in moving this resolution forward.

Sincerely,

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Hep B United
Hepatitis B Foundation

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American College of Physicians Virginia Chapter
American College of Preventive Medicine
American Medical Association
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Public Health Association
Association of State and Territory Health Officials
NASTAD (National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors)
National Black Nurses Association
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Medical Association

African Services Committee
AIDS United
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian American Health Coalition dba HOPE Clinic
Asian Center - Southeast Michigan
Asian Health Coalition
Asian Pacific Community in Action
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
CARING AMBASSADORS PROGRAM, INC
Center for Pan Asian Community Services
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center
Chuuk DHS/Chuuk CHC
Coalition on Positive Health Empowerment
Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition
Community Access National Network (CANN)
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dynavax Technologies

Dynavax Technologies Corporation
Fil Am Lions Club
Global Liver Institute
H.E.A.L.S of the South (Hepatitis Education, Awareness and Liver Support)
Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center
Hawaii Comprehensive Cancer Coalition
Hawaii Immunization Coalition
Hep Free Hawai'i
Hepatitis Appropriations Partnership (HAP)
Hepatitis Education Project
Immunization Action Coalition
International Community Health Services
Korean Community of St.Robert Bellarmine Church
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.
Kosrae Community Health Center
Laotian American National Alliance
Lazarex Cancer Foundation
Liver Health Connection
NAPAFASA
National Consumers League
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Task Force on Hepatitis B Focus on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)
NOELA Community Health Center
North East Medical Services
Nueva Vizcaya Lions Club
NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health
One Voice Recovery, Inc.
San Francisco Hep B Free - Bay Area
San Francisco Host Lions Club
South Cove Community Health Center
Stanford Health Care
Student Immunization Initiative
The AIDS Institute
The American Liver Foundation
The Korean Channel
Treatment Action Group (TAG)
UC Berkeley HepB Project
Vaccine Preventable Cancers Workgroup