

# January 2007 HepTalk Listserv

When we traveled across the country to visit your clinics, many of you expressed concerns about lack of funding for adult immunization and testing. Reprinted from the [Immunization Action Coalition](#), we pass along an opportunity: [IAC Express, Issue Number 642, January 24, 2007](#).

HepTalk is a project of the Migrant Clinicians Network and Community Health Education Concepts. HepTalk is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The goal of HepTalk is to help clinicians serving migrants and recent immigrants engage in productive discussions about hepatitis risks with their clients and help them make prevention plans. The HepTalk listserv is a support service for clinics participating in the project. This is a post-only listserv and postings will come from HepTalk staff about once a month. If others at your clinic would like to be on the listserv, or if you have questions about the listserv or resources listed here, or if you would like to add something to the posts, please contact Kathryn Anderson, HepTalk training and education coordinator and listserv administrator, at [dempander@earthlink.net](mailto:dempander@earthlink.net). You can also contact the listserv administrator if you would like to unsubscribe from the list.

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January 24, 2007

## **HELP ADVOCATE FOR INCREASED FEDERAL IMMUNIZATION FUNDING! JOIN THE 317 COALITION**

No government funds have been used to produce this article.

IAC is happy to provide you with the following appeal for new members from the 317 Coalition. We encourage your agency, organization, or medical practice to visit the coalition's website at <http://www.317coalition.org>. If you want to join the coalition or need additional information, contact Amy Souders, Cornerstone Government Affairs, at (202) 448-9500 or email at [amy@cgagroup.com](mailto:amy@cgagroup.com)

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January 18, 2007

Dear Colleague:

As the new 110th Congress convenes in Washington, D.C., we are writing to invite your organization to join the 317 Coalition, which advocates for increased funding for childhood, adolescent, and adult immunization programs. The mission of the 317 Coalition is to focus the advocacy support of allied organizations with the common goal of increasing the federal discretionary funding for the National Immunization Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, commonly known as Section 317 of the Public Health Service Act. **We are seeking to expand our robust partnership with additional national, state, and local organizations from all 50 states and territories, including professional associations, healthcare provider organizations, health departments, and any organization or medical practice interested in increasing childhood, adolescent, and adult immunization coverage. There is no cost to join the coalition.**

This coalition is solely focused on advocating for increased federal immunization grants to states and cities. It focuses on helping implement the policies of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and other relevant policy making bodies. It will in no way make or attempt to influence immunization policy.

As a member of the Coalition you will

- \* Be sent information regarding the federal budget for the CDC immunization program and updates on the Congressional deliberations and recommendations for appropriations,
- \* Be asked to simply sign on to letters of support to Congress for increased funding along with other organizations across the country,
- \* Be sent action alerts asking you to contact your congressional representatives during the appropriate time in the congressional cycle if you so wish and are able, and
- \* Be invited to participate in periodic conference calls to share important information about critical needs of federal, state, and local immunization programs.

As you may know, the federally funded 317 program provides vaccination services for children and teens who do not qualify for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, as well as adults. The 317 funds are used to purchase and administer vaccines, usually at public health departments, and for immunization delivery services, surveillance, communication, and education.

More than 80 organizations have joined since the coalition's inception in April 2006, and our efforts have already started to pay off. The House Appropriations Committee included in the FY 2007 Labor HHS Appropriations bill a \$97 million increase over the prior FY 2006 level for the Section 317 program, for a total of \$615 million. The Appropriation Committee's report also included a directive to CDC proposed by the 317 Coalition that requires a report to Congress on how much funding is needed to cover the cost of new vaccines, state infrastructure, and other data and information relating to the CDC immunization program.

In 2006, at the coalition's urging, Representatives Steny Hoyer (MD) and John Shimkus (IL) led [i.e., were the originating authors of] a bipartisan letter signed by 72 members of the House of Representatives to the Appropriations Committee seeking an increase in Section 317 funding. A similar effort in the Senate, led by Senators Smith (OR), Reed (RI), Durbin (IL), and former Senator DeWine (OH), attracted the support of 23 senators.

The following organizations have signed on as members of the coalition:

#### National Organizations

- \* American Academy of Family Physicians
- \* American Academy of Pediatrics
- \* American Academy of Physician Assistants
- \* American Association of Occupational Health Nurses
- \* American Immunization Registry Association
- \* American Liver Foundation
- \* American Pharmacists Association
- \* American Public Health Association
- \* American Social Health Association
- \* American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
- \* Campaign for Public Health
- \* Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center
- \* Emory Vaccine Center
- \* Every Child By Two
- \* GlaxoSmithKline
- \* Hepatitis B Foundation
- \* Hepatitis Foundation International
- \* Immunization Action Coalition

- \* Meningitis Angels
- \* Merck
- \* Migrant Clinicians Network, Inc.
- \* National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
- \* National Association of County and City Health Officials
- \* National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- \* National Coalition of STD Directors
- \* National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
- \* National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition
- \* National Hepatitis B Task Force: Focus on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders
- \* National Meningitis Association
- \* National Partnership for Immunization
- \* National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
- \* PKIDS/Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases
- \* Society for Adolescent Medicine
- \* Society of Teachers of Family Medicine
- \* Trust for America's Health
- \* Visiting Nurse Association of America
- \* Wyeth

#### State and Local Organizations

- \* Adult Immunization Coalition of Tompkins County (Ithaca, NY)
- \* Alabama Adult Immunization Coalition
- \* Arizona Partnership for Immunization
- \* Arkansas Children's Hospital Research Institute
- \* Asian Liver Center at Stanford University
- \* Association for Utah Community Health
- \* Chicago Area Immunization Campaign
- \* Community Health Information Collaborative (Duluth, MN)
- \* Consortium for Healthy and Immunized Communities, Inc. (Northern Ohio)
- \* Essex Metro Immunization Coalition (NJ)
- \* Georgia AIDS Coalition
- \* Georgia Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- \* Greater Salt Lake Immunization Coalition (UT)
- \* Hep-C ALERT (Northern Miami, FL)
- \* Hep C Connection (Denver, CO)
- \* HepTREC, The Delaware Valley Hepatitis Treatment, Research and Education Center
- \* Immunization Action Coalition of Washington
- \* Immunization Coalition of Washington, DC
- \* Immunization Partnership of Alameda County, California
- \* Immunization Task Force (Metro Omaha, NE)
- \* Indiana Immunization Coalition
- \* Iowa Immunization Coalition (West Des Moines, IA)
- \* Kenosha Immunization Coalition (WI)
- \* Laredo Health Coalition
- \* Larimer County Immunization Coalition
- \* LiverHope
- \* Mid America Immunization Coalition of Kansas City, MO
- \* Northeast Wisconsin Immunization Coalition
- \* Northern Manhattan Start Right Coalition
- \* Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition
- \* Oklahoma County Immunization Coalition
- \* Oregon Partnership to Immunize Children
- \* Pennsylvania Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- \* Project L.O.V.E. (Columbus, OH)

- \* Public Health ~ Seattle & King County (WA)
- \* San Francisco Immunization Coalition
- \* Sioux Falls Immunization Coalition (SD)
- \* Southwest Utah Immunization Coalition
- \* Spears Foundation
- \* Tennessee Department of Health, State Immunization Program
- \* Texas Children's Hospital Vaccine Center (Houston, TX)
- \* Tri-County Immunization Coalition (Charleston, SC)
- \* Tulsa Area Immunization Coalition
- \* Vietnamese Community Health Promotion Project ~ UCSF
- \* Washington Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- \* West Virginia Immunization Network (Dunbar, WV)

We encourage you to visit the coalition's website at [www.317Coalition.org](http://www.317Coalition.org). If your agency, organization, or medical practice would like to join the coalition or request additional information, please contact Amy Souders, Cornerstone Government Affairs, at (202) 448-9500 or email at [amy@cgagroup.com](mailto:amy@cgagroup.com)

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

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To access the letter directly, go to:  
<http://www.317coalition.org/action>

To visit the 317 Coalition website, go to:  
<http://www.317coalition.org>

For legislative updates and other resources, go to:  
<http://www.317coalition.org/learnmore>

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We hope you will forward this e-newsletter to others.

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