

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