

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ms. Castor:

The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is pleased to endorse the “Promoting Resources to Expand Vaccination, Education and New Treatments for HPV Cancers Act or the PREVENT HPV Cancers Act.” The Association is grateful for your leadership on this important issue.

Your legislation would increase public awareness by authorizing a national human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine public awareness campaign through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The legislation wisely mandates that the CDC consult with stakeholder groups, including public health departments, institutions of higher education and others to solicit advice on evidence-based information for policy development and program development, implementation, and evaluation related to vaccine awareness efforts.

The PREVENT HPV Cancers Act would also authorize an expansion of research on HPV-associated cancers, and boost funding for the Section 317 immunization initiative to put a focus on the HPV vaccine and to help improve States’ immunization information systems. The bill also would authorize additional resources for the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections. While many types of HPV are relatively harmless, some can cause certain cancers. HPV-related cancers can take years to develop after exposure. Worldwide, there are estimated 570,000 cases of cervical cancer each year and 311,000 deaths. Fortunately, the HPV vaccine (Gardasil 9 in the US) can protect against over 90 percent of the cancers caused by the virus. Since the vaccine was introduced, HPV infection rates have fallen dramatically. But too many people remain unaware of HPV, the harm it can cause, and the availability of an effective and safe vaccination.

Congresswoman Castor, the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health is grateful for your leadership on promoting expanded HPV vaccination, education, and new treatments for HPV-related cancers.

Sincerely,



Chief Advocacy Officer, ASPPH