



June 14, 2021

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Chair
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Eshoo and Ranking Member Guthrie:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), we thank you for holding a hearing on, “Booster Shot: Enhancing Public Health Through Vaccine Leadership.”

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare. It is the exclusive forum for the nation’s healthcare leaders to jointly develop policies, plans, and programs to achieve their vision of a 21st century healthcare system that makes affordable high-quality care accessible to all Americans. Members of HLC – hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors, post-acute care providers, home care providers, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

The COVID-19 health pandemic has highlighted the importance of a robust vaccination campaign to combat public health events. We applaud the unprecedented cooperation among public and private stakeholders to develop three successful vaccines to date. These efforts have allowed over 300 million vaccines to be administered and over 140 million Americans have been fully vaccinated.¹ We encourage Congress to work with federal agencies and private stakeholders to continue such collaborations in developing safe and effective vaccines for future public health events.

One of the greatest challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted is the importance of vaccine outreach to hesitant communities. Recognizing community-level concerns around vaccinations will allow stakeholders to tailor messaging strategies to ensure robust vaccination levels in these communities. HLC is working with the COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Equity Project² to build trust around vaccines and work with community leaders in educating individuals on the benefit of vaccinations. HLC is developing a playbook that may help guide vaccine education efforts and is happy to share this work with the Committee as we develop recommendations. We encourage the Committee to examine ways to further encourage these partnerships so these efforts can be used for future vaccination campaigns.

¹ *COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (June 10, 2021), <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations>.

² *About the Project*, COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Equity Project (June 10, 2021), <https://covidvaccineproject.org/about-the-project/>.

HLC also encourages the Committee to further modernize Immunization Infrastructure Systems (IIS) so that important information about vaccination efforts can be collected. IIS provide an important platform to compile community-level information about vaccine trends and allow public health officials to quickly respond to changing trends. Such investments should encourage the use of a common data standard so that state and local IIS are able to easily share data with other public health officials.

HLC looks forward to working with you on steps to improve vaccination efforts. Please contact Tina Grande at (202) 449-3433 or tgrande@hlc.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Greal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Greal" clearly legible.

Mary R. Greal
President