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FOREIGN RELATIONS

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, and Education
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you and your staff prepare the fiscal year 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I would like to call your attention to the 317 Coalition at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The 317 Coalition is the backbone of our nations' public health infrastructure, supporting the Vaccines for Children's program with infrastructure and operations support. In 2014, CDC reported 644 cases of measles across 27 states, and in 2015, the outbreak has reached 120 individuals in 17 states. In light of the measles outbreak, CDC now relies even more on the resources provided by the 317 Coalition in order to carry out its public health mission.

Vaccines are one of the greatest success stories in public health and are among the most cost-effective ways to prevent disease. Over the past twenty years, childhood immunizations have prevented 322 million illnesses and 732,000 deaths. I urge the subcommittee to build on this success by continuing to support the 317 Coalition.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jordan Bartolomeo on my staff at 228-5441.

Sincerely,

Johnny Isakson
United States Senator