



### Introduction

The suggested talking points are provided for in-person discussions or written communications with Members of Congress, government officials, and other stakeholders. They provide succinct, informative messages which seek to raise awareness and support for global immunizations. For more information, please contact us at [globalvaccines@aap.org](mailto:globalvaccines@aap.org).

### The Facts

- Vaccines are one of the most successful and cost-effective health investments in history; yet, 1 in 5 children globally do not have access to vaccines.
- 1.5 million children die from vaccine-preventable diseases every year – that’s one child every 20 seconds.
- One of the best ways to eliminate disease outbreaks and reintroduction of diseases in the US is to make sure all children in the world have access to immunizations.
- The new vaccines against the two leading causes of child pneumonia and diarrhea - pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) and rotavirus vaccine, respectively - could save about one million children's lives every year.
- Today, polio has been eliminated from most of the world. It’s endemic in only three countries (Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan). But as long as a single child remains infected, children in all countries are at risk of contracting polio. In 2009-2010, 23 previously polio-free countries were re-infected due to imports of the virus. In 2012, we saw the fewest total cases of polio than ever before and are seeing even less in 2013. We are closer than ever to eradicating polio and can’t stop now, which is why it is important to continue momentum for this endeavor.
- It is in the best interest of the US to rid the world of diseases like polio and measles, which is why supporting and advocating for global immunizations is an important domestic issue.
- Expanding access to vaccines strengthens our ability to fight disease globally, keeps our families healthy here at home, and improves economic stability around the world.
- Wiping out vaccine-preventable diseases also reduces childhood disabilities, such as paralysis from polio, and deafness and blindness from rubella.
- Vaccines are fantastic tools for promoting health equity. The past 30 years have seen global vaccination programs drastically reduce diseases like pertussis, diphtheria and Hib meningitis across the developing world, mirroring coverage and prevention rates in high-income countries. Global mortality attributed to measles, one of the top five diseases killing children globally, declined by 74 percent between 2000 and 2010 thanks to expanded immunization.
- Equal access to vaccinations is necessary for economic development. Immunized children are more likely to succeed in school and become healthy, productive adults.
- Vaccines work to level the playing field so that all children, no matter their circumstances, have a shot at a healthy life.
- For less than \$1USD, a child can be safely vaccinated against measles. A child can be fully vaccinated against pneumonia, diarrhea, polio and measles for just \$20 USD.



- Global vaccination programs save lives abroad and protect Americans at home and abroad. Infectious diseases recognize no borders. Through effective immunization efforts, the United States massively reduces the risk that those diseases will cause harm to U.S. citizens and military personnel abroad, as well as become a threat here at home.
- U.S. investments in vaccine development and delivery are necessary not only to continue the battle against infectious diseases in resource-poor regions but also to ensure that those diseases pose minimal threat to U.S. citizens at home and abroad.

### American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

- The AAP has been successful in organizing pediatric health care professionals to advocate for increased immunization access.
- The AAP collaborates with numerous organizations at the state, national, and global levels to advocate for improved infrastructure, access, and financing for vaccination.
- The Academy's extensive domestic agenda for vaccine delivery and advocacy includes addressing adequate and equitable distribution of vaccines, financing, education, and media to counter anti-vaccination efforts.
- The Global Immunization Program at the AAP, launched in 2011, is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Nations Foundation. It seeks to mobilize the Academy's membership to be informed, engaged advocates for global immunization access. Specific objectives of the program are to:
  - Develop AAP leadership as global immunization champions in implementation of advocacy and education strategies;
  - Build capacity among pediatric leaders in selected donor countries for implementation of advocacy and education strategies;
  - Enhance linkages between pediatric leaders across donor countries, and between leaders in donor and affected countries