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September 26, 2025

Governor Kathy Hochul
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Via email to: Press.Office@exec.ny.gov

Dear Governor Hochul:

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) encourages you to protect New York's children and adults with asthma and immunodeficiencies by committing to evidence-based standards for childhood vaccinations. Supporting broad vaccination policies, particularly school-entry immunization requirements, protects every child in school settings and safeguards our communities at large.

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology ([AAAAI](http://AAAAI.org)) is the leading membership organization of allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals and others with a special interest in the research and treatment of allergic and immunologic diseases. The AAAAI is the go-to resource for patients living with allergies, asthma and immunodeficiency disorders. Established in 1943, the AAAAI has more than 7,200 members in the United States, Canada and 72 other countries.

As experts in the treatment of chronic conditions impacting the immune system, allergist/immunologists emphasize [vaccines](#) as one of the most effective tools to prevent the spread of serious, sometimes life-threatening diseases. A 2024 CDC [report](#) estimated routine childhood vaccinations given between 1994 and 2023 prevented approximately 508 million cases of illness, 32 million hospitalizations, and 1,129,000 deaths, resulting in direct savings of \$504 billion and societal savings of \$2.7 trillion.

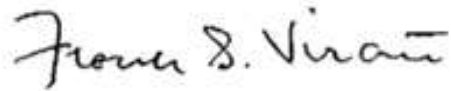
We urge you to protect the health of the children and adults of New York with asthma immunodeficiencies by upholding well-established, evidence-based immunization requirements, such as those recommended by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

People with asthma, immunodeficiencies, and other chronic conditions are especially vulnerable to preventable infections.

Strong immunization requirements are critical to protecting their health. Weakening or removing school-entry vaccine policies would erode these protections, placing vulnerable individuals at heightened risk and increasing the likelihood of outbreaks that disrupt classrooms, strain healthcare systems, and threaten the health of entire communities.

If we may be of assistance to you on this or any other issues impacting the health and welfare of the people of New York, please contact Sheila Heitzig, JD, MNM, CAE, AAAAI Director of Practice and Policy, at (414) 272-6071 or Sheitzig@aaaai.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank S. Virant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Frank S. Virant, MD FAAAAI
President, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology