



World Asthma Day: Restore & Codify Programs to Protect Patients Living with Asthma

REQUEST: On World Asthma Day, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI) respectfully requests that Congress provide **\$40 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 to restore the National Asthma Control Program (NACP)**, and requests that you cosponsor the ***Children's Health Protection Act (H.R. 2339)***.

BACKGROUND: May 6 marks World Asthma Day 2025. More than 26 million Americans, including 4.5 million children, suffer from asthma and the number of people with asthma continues to grow. Asthma kills 3,400 Americans and is responsible for an additional 7,000 deaths from related complications, every year. Asthma can lead to higher rates of hospitalizations, emergency department visits, and chronic school absenteeism. While there is no cure for asthma, appropriate diagnosis and treatment plans enable patients to effectively manage their condition and improve their quality of life.

NATIONAL ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM (NACP): The National Asthma Control Program (NACP), created in 1999, funds 29 programs across the country with the mission to “reduce the number of deaths, hospitalizations, emergency department visits, school days or workdays missed, and limitations on activity due to asthma.” Asthma mortality rates have declined by 44 percent since the program’s inception. Investment in this program returns \$70 in healthcare expenditures saved for every \$1 spent on the program¹. However the program has been eliminated following reductions and restructuring efforts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The AAAAI asks you to restore funding to prevent poor health outcomes, reduce healthcare expenditures, and significantly reduce deaths from preventable complications of a treatable chronic disease, with **\$40 million to restore the NACP** in FY 2026.

CHILDREN’S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT (H.R. 2339): The AAAAI believes that allergy/immunology professionals sit at the forefront of environmental health, factoring large scale implications of changing environmental conditions while adopting best practices and research methods to anticipate the needs of patients. The Office of Children’s Health Protection (OCHP) was established in 1997 with a goal to, “ensure that all Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) actions and programs address the unique vulnerabilities of children,” and created the Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children (Task Force).² The Task Force identifies and executes work across priority areas, including childhood asthma, through the Asthma Priority Area Workgroup. The ***Children’s Health Protection Act (H.R. 2339)*** would codify the EPA’s OCHP and continue the Task Force’s work to protect children’s health, including for the millions of children living with asthma. The AAAAI urges you cosponsor this important legislation to protect the lives of children living with asthma. To cosponsor, please contact matthew.steinbaum@mail.house.gov (Rep. Nadler).

CONTACT: For additional information, please contact Sheila Heitzig, JD, MNM, CAE, AAAAI Director of Practice and Policy, at (414) 272-6071 or sheitzig@aaaai.org.

¹ CDC’s National Asthma Control Program, An Investment In America’s Health

² <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1997-04-23/pdf/97-10695.pdf>