

2025 - 2026 Board of Directors

President

Frank S. Virant, MD, FAAAAI
University of Washington School of Medicine
Northwest Asthma & Allergy Center
Seattle, WA

President-Elect

Carla M. Davis, MD, FAAAAI
Howard University College of Medicine
Washington, DC

Secretary-Treasurer

Leonard B. Bacharier, MD, FAAAAI
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN

Immediate Past-President

Paul V. Williams, MD, FAAAAI
University of Washington School of Medicine
Northwest Asthma & Allergy Center
Seattle, WA

At-Large Executive Committee Member

Anna H. Nowak-Wegrzyn, MD, PhD, FAAAAI
NYU Grossman School of Medicine
New York, NY

At-Large Board Members

Cem Akin, MD, PhD, FAAAAI
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Priya J. Bansal, MD, FAAAAI

Asthma and Allergy Wellness Center
St. Charles, IL

Amy M. Dowden, MD, MME, FAAAAI

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics
Iowa City, IA

Angela Haczku, MD, PhD, FAAAAI

University of California-Davis School of Medicine
UC Davis Lung Center
Davis, CA

Anil Nanda, MD, FAAAAI

Asthma and Allergy Center
Lewisville, TX

Jordan S. Orange, MD, PhD, FAAAAI

Columbia University
New York, NY

Anju T. Peters, MD, MSCI, FAAAAI

Northwestern University Medical School
Chicago, IL

Allison Ramsey, MD, FAAAAI

Rochester Regional Health
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY

Rebecca Scherzer, MD, FAAAAI

Nationwide Children's Hospital
Columbus, OH

Marcus S. Shaker, MD, MS, FAAAAI

Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Lebanon, NH

Drew A. White, MD, FAAAAI

Scripps Clinic
San Diego, CA

Executive Vice President

Thomas A. Fleisher, MD, FAAAAI

Executive Director

Rebecca Brandt, CAE

Executive Director Emeritus

Kay Whalen, MBA, CAE

September 26, 2025

Governor **X**
[address]

Via email to:

Dear Governor **X**:

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) encourages you to protect **State'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.

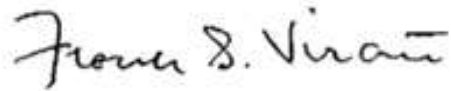
We urge you to protect the health of the children and adults of **STATE** with asthma immunodeficiencies by upholding well-established, evidence-based immunization requirements, such as those recommended by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

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 **STATE**, 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