

March 22, 2016

Mr. Bob Hagan, CEO American Health Care Group, Inc. 1910 Cochran Road Manor Oak One, Ste. 405 Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Dear Mr. Hagan,

The Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition wholeheartedly supports American Health Care Group for your efforts to bring vaccine clinics to schools and workplaces within Allegheny County, and now, in many other counties throughout Pennsylvania.

Ongoing reductions in (federal) 317 funding has resulted in the elimination of school immunization clinics supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and local public health offices. PAIC is delighted that American Health Care Group is stepping-up to this need to provide influenza and other recommended immunizations to students in the school setting.

We know that influenza can be easily transmitted through the school building very quickly – among students, teachers, and staff. Protecting our students against influenza makes sense. Annual influenza vaccination significantly decreases absenteeism due to influenza and ultimately decreases the incidence of influenza in their families and the community.

Time and time again, we hear from parents who find it very challenging to obtain influenza vaccination or "catch-up" vaccinations for their children. Attempting to coordinate schedules between parents, students and their primary care provider can be daunting. Your organization provides such a convenient service for parents and students. School based clinics also assist school nurses in bringing students into immunization compliance.

The Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition applauds American Health Care Group's efforts to offer influenza and other recommended vaccinations economically, efficiently, and safely – often working with local public health to offer these vaccines to all students – insured and uninsured.

The Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition is proud to support the work of American Health Care Group, and value our partnership to increase the rates of annual influenza vaccination and all recommended vaccinations in Pennsylvania - among children and adults.

Sincerely,

Joanne C. Sullivan Executive Director

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