National Hispanic Medical Association

**NHMA Condemns Changes to Federal Childhood Vaccine Recommendations**

National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) remains committed to protecting the health of children and communities through evidence-based immunization policies. Vaccines are one of the most effective public health interventions in history, helping to prevent serious illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths.

NHMA is deeply concerned by a recent Executive Order that could create confusion about the safety and effectiveness of routine childhood immunizations. The current childhood immunization schedule is developed through a rigorous scientific review process that reflects decades of research focused on when vaccines can provide the greatest protection against preventable diseases for newborns and children.

Extensive scientific evidence has found no credible link between the MMR vaccine and autism. Decisions about vaccine recommendations should continue to be guided by independent scientific evidence and qualified professionals.

Separating combination vaccines or delaying recommended immunizations without a medical indication may leave children vulnerable to preventable diseases and contribute to lower vaccination rates. As children return to school and communities continue to experience outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, maintaining timely access to scientifically recommended immunizations is important.

Latino and other underserved communities have historically experienced disproportionate barriers to health care access, including recommended immunizations. Policies that introduce unnecessary complexity or erode public confidence in vaccines risk widening existing health disparities and placing vulnerable children at an even greater risk.

NHMA urges policymakers to preserve the integrity of the nation's vaccine recommendation process and support physicians and other health care professionals in providing science-based guidance to patients and families. We encourage parents and caregivers to discuss any questions about childhood immunizations with a trusted health care provider, and to follow vaccination schedules recommended by qualified health professionals to help protect their children and their communities.

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