

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Robert T Griffith Jr MD

Clinical Associate Professor Warren Alpert Brown University Medical School

Fellow American Academy of Pediatrics

Date 3/30/26

Testimony in SUPPORT of H 7540

Good afternoon,

I am a Pediatrician who has practiced Primary Care Pediatrics in Rhode Island for more than 40 years. I write as a representative of the RI Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in support of H 7540 requiring that routine adult and childhood vaccine recommendations be based on evidence-based, medically sound scientific research as reviewed by the RI Department of Health. Routine adult and childhood vaccines are remarkably safe, carefully developed with scientifically rigorous oversight and have saved trillions of dollars in both direct and indirect health care dollars. Vaccines have saved MILLIONS of children from death or chronic disability.

The federal American Committee on Immunization Practices was recently disbanded and reformed to include members with no scientific or medical training and members with previously stated anti-vaccine sentiments, based on NO CREDIBLE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE! The vaccine schedule recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and endorsed by several other medical bodies has been extensively researched and promotes optimal care for children.

One of the vaccines that received a downgraded recommendation from the current ACIP was the Meningococcal Vaccine. 25 years ago, I saw a patient in my office at 330-400 in the afternoon with an invasive Meningococcal infection and a fever who looked incredibly well and had a normal white blood cell count. I sent him home and he was ***dead at midnight*** !!!!!. Our current ACIP would not have recommended that this child receive a vaccine that would have saved his life!

I strongly urge your support for H7540 Thank you for your time