



Vaccines are Not a Political Issue

Vaccines have never been a political issue. Politicians on both sides of the aisle have always supported vaccines.ⁱ

- Major White House initiatives date as far back as Thomas Jefferson, who supported mass vaccination against smallpox.
- John F. Kennedy signed into law the first federal support program for vaccines as part of the Vaccine Assistance Act of 1962.
- In 1977, Jimmy Carter announced a national childhood immunization initiative to establish a permanent system to provide vaccines to every child.
- George H.W. Bush's administration set a goal of 90 percent immunization rates and led efforts to create model state plans which have become an integral part of the infrastructure serving every community.
- The Clinton administration's Vaccines for Children program removed cost as a barrier to eligible families.

Parents overwhelmingly support vaccine school requirements – regardless of political affiliation.

- Eighty-two percent of parents support schools requiring children to be vaccinated with the MMR (measles-mumps-rubella) vaccine.ⁱⁱ
- Seventy-three percent of Conservatives, 84% of Moderates, and 90% of Liberals support vaccine requirements for schoolchildren.ⁱⁱⁱ

Vaccines save both lives and money – something every politician can support.

- Vaccines given to children born between 1994-2018 will prevent an estimated 419 million illnesses, 26.8 million hospitalizations, 936,000 deaths, and \$1.88 trillion in total societal costs.^{iv}
- For every \$1 spent on childhood vaccinations, our country saves \$10.90.^v

Resources

ⁱ Orenstein, Walter, et al. "The United States Immunization Program." *Vaccines*.

ⁱⁱ Funk, Cary, et al. "Vast Majority of Americans Say Benefits of Childhood Vaccines Outweigh Risks." Pew Research Center. 2 February 2017. Accessed 6 March 2018. <http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/02/02/vast-majority-of-americans-say-benefits-of-childhood-vaccines-outweigh-risks/>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Funk, Cary, et al. "Vast Majority of Americans Say Benefits of Childhood Vaccines Outweigh Risks." Pew Research Center. 2 February 2017. Accessed 6 March 2018. <http://www.pewinternet.org/2017/02/02/vast-majority-of-americans-say-benefits-of-childhood-vaccines-outweigh-risks/>.

^{iv} U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Vaccines for Children: Protecting America's children every day." Vaccines for Children Program (VFC). 26 March 2019. Accessed 25 March 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/protecting-children.html>.

^v Ibid.