

August 10, 2001

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
U.S. House of Representatives
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Roybal-Allard:

The American College of Physicians–American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP–ASIM), representing 115,000 physicians who practice internal medicine and medical students, would like to commend your efforts for introducing H.R. 2598, the “Underserved Adult and Adolescent Immunization Act of 2001.”

The ACP-ASIM is concerned about the low rates of adult immunization, which needlessly jeopardize the well being of high-risk patients. To help address this issue, ACP-ASIM began a 30-month adult immunization initiative in October 2000, to educate the membership about this issue and promote efforts that improve adult immunization rates.

ACP-ASIM is troubled that only 1% of the funds provided for immunizations by Section 317j of the Public Health Service Act have historically been allocated to adolescent and adult immunization programs. Childhood immunization programs, which have been given the majority of this federal support, have shown that immunization programs can be successful with proper support. The legislation you have introduced is the first step toward addressing the funding disparity that has existed for years, without disrupting the funds needed to continue successful childhood immunization programs. ACP-ASIM applauds your efforts, which support the goals of our adult immunization initiative by protecting the lives of America’s high-risk individuals and increasing overall adolescent and adult immunization rates.

We look forward to working with you and other sponsors of the Underserved Adult and Adolescent Immunization Act of 2001.

Sincerely,

William J. Hall, MD, FACP
President