



Coalition of Wisconsin Aging **& Health** Groups

*Financial Empowerment – Personal Advocacy – Victim Rights*

The Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, statewide membership organization that was founded in 1977.

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*“Advocating for all Generations”*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 8, 2019**

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**Coalition Thanks Governor for Proclaiming August National Immunization Month**

MADISON, WI, August 1, 2019—The Coalition of Wisconsin Aging and Health Groups today thanked and applauded Governor Evers for proclaiming August to be National Immunization Month.

“We are very grateful to Governor Evers for this proclamation and for helping to raise awareness about the benefits of vaccines to society, benefits we all enjoy every day” said Rob Gundermann, President and Executive Director of the Coalition.

Vaccine hesitancy has become a growing concern in Wisconsin with more people refusing vaccinations. People often think only about themselves when weighing whether or not to be vaccinated and that needs to change. The Coalition wants Wisconsin residents to think more about how vaccinations protect all of us and especially those who can’t be vaccinated. Many people can’t be vaccinated because of age, infirmity, disease or even pregnancy. The more of us who are vaccinated, the less likely it is that people who can’t be vaccinated and people with compromised immune systems will develop potentially life-threatening illnesses.

“It’s uplifting to see Wisconsin policymakers understanding the public health benefit vaccines bring to the table. We should all feel good about this because preventing other people from getting sick ultimately prevents us from getting sick. We really are all in this together” Gundermann said.

The Coalition is working with the UW School of Nursing to develop science-based materials to explain how vaccines protect us. This is part of the Coalition’s effort to combat misinformation about vaccines and immunization.

“As the Governor states in his proclamation, misinformation about vaccine safety poses a significant public health risk, we need to acknowledge and address that risk and the Governor’s proclamation is one of the ways we do that” Gundermann added.

Governor Evers also maintained funding added to the budget by the Joint Finance Committee for science-based public education related to vaccines.

\*Vaccination is when a vaccine is administered to you, usually by injection. Immunization is what happens in your body after you receive the vaccination.