



**T H E
I M M U N I Z A T I O N
P A R T N E R S H I P**

September 8, 2020
Oral Testimony
State Board of Education
Public Hearing on Proposed Revisions to 19 TAC Chapter 115,
Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Health Education

Good afternoon, Chairman Ellis and members of Board. My name is Allison Winnike and I am president and CEO of The Immunization Partnership.

Our non-profit mission is to eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases by educating the community, advocating for evidence-based policy, and supporting immunization best practices.

We provide access to scientifically rooted, factual information when individuals and families are making decisions about vaccines.

Thank you for your dedication and leadership on behalf of our state's most precious resources—our children.

We support and encourage the board to adopt the workgroup's language on immunizations and strongly ask to ensure the age- appropriate immunization curriculum aligns with the CDC recommendations and immunization schedules for children and adolescents.

Immunization is one of the top 10 greatest public health achievements in the 20th century.

The CDC estimates that childhood vaccination in the last 24 years has prevented nearly 1 million deaths, 27 million hospitalizations, and 419 million illnesses.

The return on investment for immunizations is overwhelming; every dollar spent in childhood vaccination saves us \$10.10.

The current coronavirus pandemic illustrates the importance of good personal health and hygiene practices.

While there is no COVID-19 vaccine available yet, there are other diseases we can immunize against to protect our communities now.

Vaccine advancement and immunization efforts has helped us eradicate polio, eliminate measles, and reduce cases of several types of cancer.

These scientific achievements should be taught to all our students.

Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to share our comments. I am happy to answer any questions.