

Support for the Recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

A position statement of Every Child By Two – Carter/Bumpers Champions for Immunization

Adopted: December 5, 2012

As one of the nation’s most highly respected nonprofit organizations committed to reducing the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases in children, Every Child By Two (ECBT) strives to ensure that every child is immunized on time in accordance with the Center for Disease Control’s recommended immunization schedule. This schedule is created, regularly reviewed, and modified by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a group of medical and public health experts that develops recommendations on how to use vaccines to control diseases in the United States. The ACIP creates the childhood immunization schedule to protect children when they are most vulnerable to disease. The ACIP consists of 15 experts who are voting members. The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) selects these members after an application, interview, and nomination process. Fourteen of these members have expertise in vaccinology, immunology, pediatrics, internal medicine, nursing, family medicine, virology, public health, infectious diseases, and/or preventive medicine. One member is a consumer representative who provides perspectives on the social and community aspects of vaccination.

The annually updated ACIP childhood immunization schedule is endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the schedule is published by the CDC each year.

Every Child By Two recognizes that the ACIP is committed to ensuring that the recommended childhood immunization schedule is developed and maintained to provide optimal protection against deadly-vaccine preventable diseases in this country. ECBT strongly supports the recommendations made by the ACIP and promotes the use of the ACIP recommended immunization schedule for all children in the United States.

About Every Child By Two

Every Child By Two-Carter/Bumpers Champions for Immunization, was founded in 1991 by Former First Lady of the United States Rosalynn Carter and Former First Lady of Arkansas Betty Bumpers as a result of the measles epidemic that killed over 120 people, many of them young children. Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Bumpers have been working on immunizations since their

44 husbands were governors in the early 1970s and have been credited with the passage of laws
45 mandating school-age vaccination requirements. The goals of ECBT are to raise awareness of the
46 critical need for timely immunizations and to foster a systematic way to immunize all of
47 America's children by age two. To forward its agenda, ECBT enlists the support of elected
48 officials and their spouses, concerned community leaders, and representatives of many national
49 organizations.

50 Over the last two decades, ECBT has worked with partners at the grassroots and national levels
51 to develop initiatives that have had major impact on the overall system of vaccinations. These
52 programs have helped to educate the public, healthcare workers and lawmakers about the
53 importance and safety of immunizations, and have assisted in facilitating resolutions to
54 immunization barriers. Through more than 20 years, ECBT and its partners in public health have
55 developed many successful strategies; however, there is still much to be done to ensure that
56 every child, in our nation and abroad, is protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

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