American School Health Association

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April 11, 2000

Rosalyn Carter, Co-founder
Betty F. Bumpers, Co-founder
Every Child By Two
666 11th Street NW
Suite 202
Washington, DC 20001-4542

Dear Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Bumpers:

The American School Health Association (ASHA) supports the National Education Goal of ensuring that every child enters school ready to learn. In order to accomplish this goal, the ASHA endorses making comprehensive health services available to all young children. Such services include regular health examinations, preventive health services, and access to needed medical services. Immunization registries represent an important piece of such a comprehensive system. Such registries help ensure that children receive the protection they need from preventable diseases while not receiving duplicate doses of vaccines because of uncertainty about their immunization history.

In a society where many families with young children change health care providers because of moves to new communities or changes in insurance coverage, a registry for cumulative immunization records becomes critical. Because most states require proof of immunization for entry into school, registries help ensure that children's entry into school is not delayed while parents search for records and that children will not receive unneeded doses of vaccines in order to attend school. Registries also help ensure that children are not inadvertently left unprotected because of a gap in medical care. In addition, registries help school nurses who have the responsibility for ensuring compliance with immunization requirements for school entry.

The American School Health Association applauds the Carter/Bumpers Campaign for Early Immunization for its efforts to promote immunization registries in all communities in the United States.

Sincerely,

Susan Wooley

Susan F. Wooley, Ph.D., CHES
Executive Director