

Open Letter Comments
June 24, 2015

"I battled and beat B strain meningococcal disease at 6 months old. I'm almost 6 now and I don't want anyone else to have to fight those bad germs like I did. Please vote to protect kids like me. Thank you."

Addy Wolf

Survivor Jan. 2010

B strain Meningococcal Septicemia

"My best friend died this year at age 18 within 24 hours of being diagnosed with bacterial meningitis."

Adeline Graves, California

"Lost a friends young daughter college freshman and a cousin high school to meningococcal disease."

Adi, California

"We've had two cases of meningitis B that could have been fatal. Adolescents and college students are at highest risk for this infection. Vaccines help to prevent this deadly infection."

Adriane Stasurak, DNP, ANP-BC, Pennsylvania

"For Janet"

Aisling Mccrohan , New York

"You don't ever get over the loss of a child."

Alan Bozof, Florida

"As a physician I have seen how devastating a disease this is and how it can be easily prevented."

Alan Peterson, MD, Pennsylvania

"One of my closest friends growing up passed away last year from the B strain of meningitis. If there is any way to prevent other people from losing a loved one, I would want to be a part of it. I think people need to be more informed and more prepared because this is such a quick, devastating illness that can be prevented."

Alanna Hamill, California

"For Janet"

Alex Manning, New York

"For Janet"

Alex Teitler, New York

"It almost killed my friend Sarah Wilson."

Alexander Nittel, Massachusetts

"Meningitis B killed a friend."

Alexandra Harris, California

“In memory of Andrea Jaime (Jan. 25, 1994-Sept. 15, 2014), a beloved friend, sister, daughter, teammate, and classmate. Your spirit lives amongst us. Missing you every day, angel.”

Alexandra Webel, Florida

“After seeing a family friend’s daughter pass at the young age of 18 from meningitis, there is absolutely no reason in my mind why this vaccine should not be available.”

Ali Dianaty, California

“My daughter was affected at the age of 12 with almost fatal results.”

Alison Jensen, California

“Vaccinations should be free, universal, and compulsory, no matter which effective proven vaccines we're talking about. I favor this. This current effort strikes me as a very good, honorable, supportable initiative, so I'm signing.”

Allan Greene, Florida

“For Janet”

Allison Hufford, New York

“My 19 year old cousin died from meningitis B. Everyone should have access to protection via this vaccine.”

Allison Izsak, Missouri

“My beautiful best friend Sara passed away from it about eight months ago and I can't imagine it happening to someone else.”

Alyssa Browning, California

“My cousin contracted meningitis as a child. At the time we knew nothing about the disease except that it could kill her. This young child survived but not without wounds that resembled burns over a significant part of her body and the amputation of her leg. She has grown into an incredible young woman, a registered nurse in the same hospital she spent months of her youth receiving treatment, and an active advocate for meningitis awareness and the meningitis vaccine. I urge you to help us prevent this often devastating disease by recommending regular vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal disease. Please protect our teens and their loved ones.”

Amanda Davis, Arkansas

“I lost my cousin to the group b strain of meningitis - if she had been vaccinated she would still be here today.”

Amanda Frake, Louisiana

“Andrea Jaime, one of my closest friends didn't get the chance to finish her second year of college because of it. May she rest in peace.”

Amanda Soto, Florida

“My name is Amy Aiken and I contracted Serogroup B meningococcal diseases at the age of 29. I almost died within 24hrs of contracting it. As a result of this devastating disease, I lost both my kidneys, and both my legs below the knees and parts of all 10 of my fingers were amputated. My body is covered with scars and skin grafts. I went through over two years of occupational and rehabilitation therapy. I underwent kidney transplant surgery and had a kidney donated to me by my mother. I am three and a half years out from having Bacterial Meningitis and still suffer from constant infections and other complications with my transplanted kidney. I feel as though my life is a constant struggle ever since I became ill. I ask that you please recommend routine vaccination against Serogroup B meningococcal disease. I ask this for myself, for other survivors who struggle, and for all the families who lost their loved ones to this horrible yet vaccine preventable disease. The majority of Americans do not know what the consequences can be when unprotected against any type of Bacterial Meningitis. I thank you for your time and consideration.”
Amy Aiken, Texas

“Sara Stelzer was a dear friend of our family and her death was a tremendous loss.”
Amy Bowen, Arizona

“My daughter Allison passed away from Meningococcal Meningitis in in 1992. She was only 20 months old.”
Amy Frahn, California

“My son died in 2004 from meningococcal meningitis at the age of 19. I did not know at the time that a vaccine to prevent this disease was even available. No one should have to suffer the tragedy of meningitis when it is preventable with vaccine. Making it available to all children and college students should be a top priority.”
Amy Necaie, Mississippi

“My very dear friend David Dolby lost his cousin, once diagnosed, in less than 72 hours. She was only 18 years old.”
Amy Rojas, Arizona

“A good friend of my passed away of this disease while in college.”
Amy Roper, Georgia

“My 22 year old daughter is a subtype B survivor. She is strong and recently celebrated 1 year of survival. We thought she was protected with the ‘old vaccine’. PLEASE SIGN. Protect your children.”
Andrew Wilson, Pennsylvania

“My sister had and almost died from this strain.”
Andrew Wilson, Minnesota

“My cousin Jerry passed away too young with this horrible disease!”
Angela Robinson, Maine

“My friend was affected by this as a young girl. Her story is amazing and she has come so far from all of this. She inspires us all to push forward and move on with life because it has great things to offer us.”
Angelina Rosa, Massachusetts

“The daughter of one of my son's friend dies at age 19. The vaccine was not made available to her.”

Anita Auguste, Arizona

“The daughter, Sara Stelzer, of a very good friend passed away after contracting meningitis.”

Ann Merchant, California

“A loved one was taken by this terrible disease.”

Anna Jaffe, California

“My 19 year old son passed away on February 11th , 2015.”

Anthony Caggiano, North Carolina

“My daughter contracted the meningitis B strain during a field trip 15 years ago when she was 11 years old. She was released from the hospital 9 months later with devastating injuries including loss of both legs below the knee and many of her fingers and her kidneys were severely damaged. She has endured more than 150 operations and medical procedures over the past 15 years including a kidney transplant. The cost of this illness has been enormous emotionally, physically and financially. Had a vaccination for the B strain been available at the time, she would have likely avoided the severe emotional and physical pain that she will unfortunately have to endure for the rest of her life.”

Anthony M. LoRe Jr., Massachusetts

“I knew a girl who died from this disease which could have been prevented with this vaccine.”

Anthony Valdez, California

“My former colleague in the film industry, Amie Berger, a 28 years old, beauty, in my office at Anchor Network, came down with a "cold". The next thing we knew she was in a coma in the hospital, having her limbs amputated to try to save her life. She awoke from the coma and passed away. Fortunately, my friend, Gary's son survived his amputations, but meningitis is horrific. There is prevention and it should be available.”

April Sandmeyer, New York

“I lost one of my friends because of this, and I'm hoping more lives could be prevented from being lost in the future.”

Areeta Asgharzadeh, California

“We lost a very much loved and respected girl in our community because of this infection. We know of its dangers now, because of her and we don't want another precious life gone too soon.”

Ariana Sanchez, California

"I lost my brother this past February to this terrible disease. He was in his second year at University of North Carolina in Charlotte. He was studying in the engineering program. He was absolutely brilliant and if life would have allowed it, he would have changed the world. I think about him every day and always wonder what if this never happened. I don't wish this feeling of intense loss on any other family. This terrible disease is now preventable and if we can protect our youth and even at least educate them on the seriousness of meningitis, hopefully we can prevent anyone else from losing their lives or their loved ones lives. I cannot stress bringing awareness to our nation's youth enough. I never would imagine in a million years losing my little brother, but it happened and it can happen to anyone."

Arianna Caggiano, Wisconsin

"My dear cousin lost her beautiful son to meningitis. Let's hope that no other parent has to suffer this loss."

Arlene Raifer, New York

"Vaccinations should be required for the safety and stability of society. RIP Sara."

Arteen Asgharzadeh, California

"I lost a beautiful, fun loving, friend far far too soon from a tragedy that is preventable. Please do not let her life and passing be in vein. Prevent another family, another friend, another community from feeling the same pain we have felt. We are currently in the process of shopping a Bill that would add the B vaccine to a list of required vaccinations to register for school in our State. Thank you."

Ashley Humes, California

"My 17 year old, twin daughter, passed away within 15 hours of contracting it."

Athena Richardson, Georgia

"My husband had a close friend in high school whose teenage sister went to bed one night and never woke up again. Their father found her dead in the morning and the biopsy determined that it was meningitis that killed her. Her teenage boyfriend ended up committing suicide."

Audra Murzycki, California

"Vaccines save lives."

Babe Free, Arkansas

"My daughter lost a childhood friend to this disease in 2014; Sara Stelzer, 18, from Moorpark CA was a vibrant, intelligent, beautiful young woman with so much to offer this world. Sara's death could've been avoided and it has been a devastating blow to her family, friends, neighbors, and classmates. I urge the CDC to re-examine the immunization practices currently in place and approve adding the serogroup B meningococcal vaccine to the recommended immunizations list for all adolescents and college-aged individuals."

Barb McFadden, California

"My granddaughter contracted the B strain when she was four. She is now a 23 year old amputee; first lost all her toes, then had her left leg amputated when she was 12 (her decision) because the leg had deteriorated so much. This vaccine should be required for ALL children, not just teens and young adults."

Barbara Barth, South Carolina

"A dear dear friend lost her 18 year old daughter in a matter of hours! Just devastating. No one should have to ever go through this."

Barbara Hard, California

"This vaccine probably would have saved my niece's life last year."

Barbara Stelzer, Louisiana

"A local girl from our community passed away last year from this infection during her freshman year at college. It was heartbreaking. My son will be going to college soon and it's imperative that the vaccine is available to protect people from this virus."

Beth Clarke, California

"My friend's son died of meningitis. He was only ill for approximately 36 hours. This is a tragedy that can be prevented with the proper vaccines."

Beth Lair, RN, CSN, New Jersey

"We lost our 19 year old cousin.....a void that will never be filled!"

Bethany Fields, California

"I want this vaccine to be routinely available and widely used by the time my three children enter their teen years. How many more young people will die or become permanently disabled because of a disease that is vaccine-preventable? Many of us can get this vaccine for our children if we seek it out and pay for it ourselves. But how many won't - or can't - unless it is added to the schedule of recommended vaccinations? Please vote in favor of routine vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal disease."

Bethellen Warren, Georgia

"I have lost my nephew Gilbert Duvalsaint because of meningitis."

Blandine Benjamin, Florida

"This vaccination would have saved my niece's life. I pray no other person goes through this."

Brenda Ferguson, Arizona

"My daughter lost a sorority sister to this terrible disease at University of South Florida in 2007. Please make this available to EVERYONE!"

Brenda Gergard, North Carolina

"In memory of beautiful USF student Rachel Futterman."

Brenda Hill Gerhard, North Carolina

"Learning my cousin died from it."

Brenda Singer, California

"Friend's niece died from this."

Brenda Waggenpack, Louisiana

"I have seen the outbreaks on US campuses. I had the pleasure of knowing the beautiful Emily Stillman who died at 19 from the vaccine preventable disease."

Brenda Zack, Michigan

"I lost a dear, young cousin to meningitis. He was a father of two beautiful kids. Meningitis doesn't just kill individuals, it devastates whole families."

Brian D. Wade, Michigan

"I'm an EMT so I recognize firsthand the importance of public awareness regarding communicable diseases."

Brian Goldstone, California

"Because of Amy Aiken's case!"

Brittany Bates, Texas

"Someone I knew passed away from this disease so I hope this vaccine prevents innocent lives from being lost in the future."

Brittney Mitich, California

"My sorority sister died from this."

Brooke Young, Alabama

"Please update the recommendations given the new availability of treatments, and don't allow young people to die of serogroup B meningococcal disease unnecessarily."

Byron G Auguste, District of Columbia

"Meningitis (serogroup B) took the life of my cousin Kim Coffey at the young and vibrant age of 17. My cousin had her whole life ahead of her and so much to offer the world. However she was taken too soon."

Caitlyn Coffey, New York

"My best friend contracted this horrible disease when she was 3 years old. Our whole lives we have dealt with doctors' visits, physical therapy, stares from strangers, and children in school mocking her scars. No child should ever have to go through this."

Candice Wommack, Arkansas

"One of my best friends had a family member pass away because of this. I am more than happy to show my support in her honor and for everybody else that has been impacted by a lack of immunization."

Carly Bayroff, New Jersey

"A dear friend's smart, creative, beautiful daughter nearly died from this strain of meningitis. Thank God she survived but not without permanent effects. I will soon have 3 sons in college and I want them to have access to this vaccine!"

Carol Anne Donohoe, Pennsylvania

"For Janet ❤️"

Caroline Baldwin, New York

"For Janet"

Caroline Dailey, Alabama

"My granddaughter lost a friend to this disease. And she is off to college with another granddaughter right behind her. I don't want to lose them to this disease, especially when they can be protected from it. Please act now!!!"

Carolyn Dewey, Alabama

Having lost a nephew to meningitis in 1997 at the age of 17, it is important to me to have my children vaccinated. IMO the benefits outweigh the risks when it comes to vaccinations.”

Carolyn Hession, New Jersey

“One of my neighbors had a son who one morning developed flu like symptoms and died less than 24 hours later from this disease. He was their only child and was in college at the time. Because of this my granddaughter had her shot before starting her first year of college. This mother whose child so suddenly, speaks throughout the country about this disease and the importance of getting immunized.”

Carolyn Smith, Louisiana

“I have been disabled since 1998 because of meningitis we need to take These vaccinations very serious and save lives.”

Casey Stewart, California

“Andrea Jaime was a beautiful smart young lady who had her entire future ahead, she was studying pre-med at Georgetown and unfortunately she was taken too soon by this disease. I watched Andrea grow up since she was 4 years old and she always liked to help people. Meningitis took her from us but her legacy of helping others will continue.”

Catalina Miranda, Florida

“A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY DIED OF THE DISEASE. HE DIED AT THE AGE OF 13.”

CATHERINE MAKOWICZ, Florida

“My nephew almost died.”

Catherine Wyman, Washington

“My beautiful 18 year old niece died last October from the B virus within 48 hours. She had just started college. “

Cathy McClinchy, Arizona

“I lost my nephew basically for no reason--he was 20.”

Cathy Stiner, Florida

“Friends with the Stelzer family! The death of Sara is heartbreaking!”

Celeste Hines, Alabama

“My 26 year old daughter will be undergoing a kidney transplant on June 30th due to the lingering effects of meningococcal meningitis. She almost died 7 years ago at age 18 during her second semester of her freshman year of college after contracting this deadly bacterial infection. Please stand behind the serogroup b vaccination so others don't suffer. Thank you for your consideration.”

Chris Brison, Tennessee

“We watched our friends’ lives be turned upside down when their 18 year old lost her life to this disease. The impact is far reaching when you consider the hundreds of college students whose lives were also affected as they learned of the death of Sara, wondering if the same thing might happen to them. Let's do what we can to prevent the death of another young life that still has so much to offer this world.”

Chris Rabushka, California

“My niece Kim Coffey passed away on 6/15/12.”

Chris Wukovits, New York

“My dear childhood friend's daughter fought for her life last winter. She was in college in Pennsylvania. She almost died. She had the 2 part other (not B) meningitis vaccines prior. She contracted type B. Touch and go for a long time as to whether this beautiful girl in her early 20's would pull through. Well thank God she made it but is deaf in one ear and has 20% hearing loss in good ear. My son is attending university this fall. We were only able to find the original vaccine available... I strongly feel B should be made readily available!!!”

Christie Heeb, Alabama

“For Janet. MAC4JAN”

Christina Cardino, New York

“My best friend of 16 years passed away of this disease.”

Christina Spadafora, California

“My daughter survived Meningococcal meningitis in 2001 when she was a freshman in college. We had just heard about the vaccine and planned to look into it but hadn't yet, when she contracted the disease in the spring of 2001. She spent 2 weeks in the hospital in Rochester MN, and miraculously recovered fully. I have always been a proponent of vaccinations and strongly believe in this one as well. Thanks for your consideration.”

Christine Perlick, Wisconsin

“My friend's daughter died, Kimberly Coffey.”

Christine Ruberti, New York

“Our son died Nov.11th, 2002 from meningococcal disease, Serogroup B. He was vaccinated before he entered college, but the vaccination didn't prevent type B. The health professionals we're not even aware of this. Erik was a junior at U of Wis., River Falls. He died at River Falls Hospital which is only a 25 minute drive to a larger more well equipped hospital. The lack of knowledge by the attending physician in charge led to a much delayed treatment which is ultimately what killed our son. Since approximately 30% of cases is caused by Type B and probably on the rise, this vaccination is a necessity to save lives. I've seen this disease in action and no one should go through this. Our son would be here today if the vaccination were available.”

Christine Spindler, Minnesota

“Let's stop bacterial meningitis in its tracks. One child's life is too many; I know, I lost my daughter to this disease.”

Cindy Krejny, Ohio

“I know someone whose daughter died from meningitis B as college, and I have two kids in college. I urge you to recommend this as a standard vaccine before more kids die!!”

Claes Hornstrand, California

“For Sara Stelzer, the shining star of Conejo Valley YMCA Youth and Government. We love you Sara.”

Claire Alexander, California

"I became aware of MenB when my children (twins) were looking into college. Before then, I believed they were fully protected from meningococcal infection by the MCV4 vaccine and booster. Last summer, I waited and watched and hoped that the vaccine would be approved before my children entered college in the fall. It didn't happen. I learned of Andrea Jaime's (Georgetown) death in September 2014. I heard about Sara Stelzer's (UCSD) death in October 2014.

Is it fair that some won't receive the MenB vaccine because their parents are unaware of the risk or cannot afford to pay for the vaccine out-of-pocket?"

Claire Palmer, Pennsylvania

"For Janet"

Clara L., New York

"A sweet friend nearly lost her life to this disease. Please don't let others suffer."

Clare Blackstone Barker, Texas

"Our son Phoenix Hoang lost his life to meningococcal, Feb 2012"

Clare Hoang, California

"Meningitis took my brother from me back in May of 2009. The way it destroyed him really had a major affect from me. I still have nightmares of that night!"

Clifton Hodges, West Virginia

"This past October I lost one of my good friends Sara to this. She was a freshman at college and only 18 years old. Please ease our grieving & help us find a way to prevent future family and friends from this kind of pain."

Courtney Beaulieu, California

"I was a student trainer with Georgia Southwestern State University in the spring of '97 and had the honor of knowing Evan Bozof. This also means, I was present when we lost him to this disease. Please protect the lives of our teenagers with this vaccine, so no one else has to experience a loss like my Georgia Southwestern family had to experience that spring. My life has forever been changed due to that experience."

Courtney Wells, Kentucky

"One of my good friends lost her brother to this and I know how much it has affected her and her family. It's because of her story I had my boys immunized, in honor of her brother and all the others who have died."

Cristina Samaniego, Virginia

"My brother passed away at age 27 from meningitis. It's a very swift deadly disease. I know have my children going through the vaccinations."

Crystal Kroppman, Florida

"I had meningitis as a 20 year old. I am lucky to be here."

Cynthia Weisinger, Wisconsin

"I had two friends die of meningitis and I am lucky to know a young survivor. Prevention can save lives. Since there is a vaccine that works it should be given."

Cynthia Wilson, Pennsylvania

"My niece lost a friend on campus and my daughter will be going to college in several years."

Dale Santacroce, Virginia

"Thank you for protecting our families."

Dana Brandon, Tennessee

"After having a friend lose their life due to this, I am a strong believer that everyone should be vaccinated."

Dane Aguilar, California

"A very good friend of mine suddenly lost her life to this terrible disease at the age of 18. There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about how it all could've been avoided if there was a vaccine."

Dani Dettorre, California

"Sara Stelzer, who was like a sister and best friend to me, passed away in October."

Daniella Spadafora, California

"I have met too many families affected by meningococcal disease. Too many children lost and too many other children with their lives forever changed. Most of their parents were unaware of the dangers of meningitis and that a vaccine is available. Parents need to know about the serogroup B vaccine and ACIP recommendations help to educate."

Danielle Damiano, New York

"We lost our son Grayson to meningococcal meningitis in 1999 no one should have to watch their family member suffer that way or have to bury their child."

Darla Bandel, Wyoming

"My niece died on Christmas eve with that terrible thing called Meningitis at the age of 18."

Darlene Booth, New York

"This issue is important to me because a child of a friend mine passed away while at college due to the B strain. Additionally, I have a child leaving for college later this year and another next year, and I feel all children at risk should be vaccinated if there is a way to prevent further unnecessary deaths."

Darrell Weinberg, California

"Evan was my son, Tommy's, roommate at GSW and not only were we concerned about Evan, but we were concerned the disease had been contracted by the others on the team. It was such a sad time for us all."

Debbie Holloman, Florida

"I support wider inclusion for this vaccine. I will be a grandparent in the fall and support vaccines 100%. We are such a global world today and diseases that we never thought of before. I want myself and my family to have the best protection and vaccines help me and my family achieve this goal."

Debora Carr Harper, Pennsylvania

"A girlfriend's brother, who I knew, passed from it."

Deborah Heilborn, Virginia

“No one should have to suffer or die from a disease that is vaccine preventable.”

Deborah L. Wexler, MD, Minnesota

“My Son Andrew (19 years old) died on February 11, 2015. We knew at that time it was Meningococcal Meningitis based on his symptoms. He was a sophomore student at UNC Charlotte in the Engineering program and worked every weekend either in Charlotte or Raleigh without EVER taking a day off. He worked out and was healthy and fit. After 4 long months waiting for the medical examiner’s report and autopsy reports - it was confirmed. I am imploring everyone to take a step back, if you have children and prevent this incredibly horrible and fast acting infection from occurring - we have the vaccination - it being approved just 19 days before my son's death - and I am embarking on my mission to help raise further awareness as this can happen to anyone - we never fathomed this could happen to us - well it did - and my mission is to help further raise awareness - they have not even reported my son's case to the CDC, let alone the University or community in charlotte after 4 months!..... In my Sons honor for he was an incredible young man.... I am begging for this to be a routine vaccination - God forbid this happens to your son or daughter....”

Debra Caggiano, North Carolina

“The grandson of a co-worker died from me entities at age 4.”

Debra Teets, Pennsylvania

“I have a good friend who lost her son suddenly from the illness. No parent should EVER go through that or have to worry about a fever turning deadly. Help do what it takes to rid the world of this terrible disease.”

Denise Clayton, New Jersey

“A young lady from our town contracted the disease while at college at UC-San Diego. Unfortunately, she did not survive. We would like to prevent other families/friends from having to experience the same unfortunate loss.”

Denise Horton, California

“Our son Jessi died from meningitis in 2010. I encourage all parents to vaccinate their children. Jessi was only 27 years old. I wish I had been more aware of the immunizations.”

Denise Shamer, Florida

“A good friend's daughter contracted meningococcal and had to fight for her life. She is now left with life-long health problems that could have been prevented had she been vaccinated.”

Diane Fitti, Pennsylvania

“A family member, just 18 and starting college, had the required vaccination, died 3 days after first symptom of a type of meningitis not covered in the vaccination presented.”

Diane Seagroves, Washington

“I lost my precious cousin Gilbert Duvalsaint at the precious age of 19 years old when he was a sophomore attending Johns Hopkins University in 2005. It was a devastating blow to the family and we still feel it but if there's a way that we can help others, I will do it. Thank you.”

Dominique Duvalsaint, New York

“Lost a loved one to this disease.”

Donna McBride, Florida

“My niece Sara Stelzer died from not having this vaccine. It is important that the public be educated. She had the vaccine for the other serogroups.”

Donna Perry, California

“In memory of Andrea Jaime.”

Dora luz Moreno, Florida

“As a pharmacist I see the impact vaccines make in our lives. As an uncle, I saw how my niece almost died from meningitis. We need to make vaccines mandatory, not optional.”

Ed Wolf, BS Pharm, DPh, Tennessee

“My son survived Meningococemia. It came out of nowhere and nearly killed him.”

Eileen McHugh, New York

“My daughter died in 2 days from serogroup B... we buried her on her 20th birthday. If only this was her then... an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure... don't let this happen to anyone..”

Eilleen Boyle, New York

“My son had meningococemia at 6 mos. He's lost both his legs below the knee, had a lot of skin grafts, and lost right thumb.

It's not an easy journey. We're incredibly thankful he's alive!”

Elaine Monthony, New York

“Amy Aiken contracted it. It's in support of my friend.”

Elena De La Garza, Texas

“A dear family friend buried his daughter this year, her first year in university, all because of the lack of knowledge and a vaccine.

Let's try and save any other family from this heartbreak.”

Elizabeth A. Baker, Arizona

“For Janet”

Elizabeth Brett, New York

“This disease has affected me by taking the life of my younger brother 4 years ago.”

Elizabeth Brown, Michigan

“I lost my grandson to meningococcal disease February 2015. Please recommend routine vaccination against this horrible disease.”

Elizabeth Caggiano, Florida

“As a victim of bacterial meningitis, it is incredibly important that I communicate how important it is for others to be protected from this disease. I suffered amputations of nine fingers and both of my feet as a result of this devastating disease. I did not receive the vaccine, because it was not a routine vaccination, and almost lost my life as a result. Please consider protecting others from this horrible experience.”
Elizabeth Esthay, Louisiana

“I am an RN who worked for many years at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and saw how quickly children can succumb to this disease. I was the first call from our friends who are first time parents made, when they called the pediatric provider and didn't get a return call quickly. I told them to go directly to CHOP emergency room, given the severity of their daughter's symptoms, if they didn't get a call back within 20 minutes. Even though they did exactly that, they nearly lost their little one to meningitis/sepsis. We have 7 grandchildren, ages 24 to 3 years of age, and I would hope they never have to face this dread disease because the appropriate vaccine is not available to them. Please vote to protect all our children sooner rather than later.”
Elizabeth Tiger, Pennsylvania

“For Janet”
Emily, Alabama

“For Janet”
Emily, New York

“Meningococcal disease took the life of one of my best sister's friends. She was 18 years old, in her first year at college. This vaccination would have saved her life. Please take this into consideration. No family should go through what her family has gone through.”
Emily Leiber, California

“My friend had a friend who died last fall :(”
Emma Hyams, Texas

“For Janet”
Emma Sheerin, New York

“For Janet”
Erin, New York

“My cousin died in less than 72 hours because a vaccine wasn't available to her!”
Erin Dolby, Arizona

“Death of a friend's beautiful young daughter.”
Erin Lavelle, California

“I lost my amazing cousin to this. She was only 18. I miss her constantly.”
Erin Loretz, Arizona

“For Phoenix.”
Erin Todd, Indiana

"I have been lucky enough to be able to help many people from this deadly disease by passing the word and being an advocator of this vaccination. My best friends son Nick Springer has lost his arms and legs from this awful deadly disease. He then went on to win a Gold Medal & Bronze Medal for the United States in Wheel chair Rugby."

Errol Rappaport, New York

"For Janet"

Eva, New York

"My daughter, Paula, died in less than 24 hours from meningitis. She died 3 months before her college graduation. There are now vaccines available that cover all strains of meningitis. No one should have to lose their child to this horrible disease!"

Evelyn Brooks, Virginia

"My cousin died of this disease in 2005. This could have all been avoided had the availability of the proper shots been given. I'm signing for Gilbert Duvalsaint."

Fabiola François, New York

"For Janet x"

Frani Williams, New York

"Well last October our neighbor girl named Sara Stelzer and my daughters best friend since they were two years old died from type b. Sara was just 18 and starting her freshman year at San Diego state. Sara life was just getting started, but if she would have had a vaccination available to her, she would be alive today. My family is devastated with her senseless death. Sara was full of life; she was like another daughter to my wife and I. Both my daughters are devastated and are having a long time with Sara untimely death. We need to make a vaccination available so no other child will die."

Frank Spadafora, California

"My son Gilbert died at the age of 19, within 24 hours of symptoms due to meningococcal infection, while attending college at Johns Hopkins 10 years ago."

FREGENS DUVALSAINT, New York

"Three years ago, my best friend lost her life to meningococcal group B. I feel that it is extremely important for everyone to be vaccinated now that the vaccine is available in order to prevent this horrible to disease and save lives."

Gabriella Rocco, New York

"I knew a girl who was always happy and cared passionately about others. She passed away last year and it was heart breaking. Only 18 years old."

Gabrielle, California

"A dear friend lost their 2 year old to meningitis."

Gail Snow, Oregon

"My friend's daughter Sara Stelzer would be alive today if the vaccine was available."

Gary Sender, Pennsylvania

“This is a heinous disease and every step available for protection should be taken. It's crazy not to vaccinate.”

Gary Springer, New York

“We lost a wonderful up and coming motorcycle racer to this disease. But more importantly he was the father of an 8 month old baby boy. His death could have been prevented...Tragic”

Georgette Hann, California

“In memory of Evan Bozof, a college classmate, and in hopes of protecting my children.”

Georgia Tatum Taylor, Georgia

“Please recommend this vaccine for all young adults, a good friend of mine lost her 18 year old daughter to meningitis B after being away at college for just 2 months when her life was just beginning. As a parent you worry about many things when you send your child to college, but meningitis shouldn't be one of them. I have a daughter going to college in August and somehow I will find a way to have her vaccinated, but please protect her further by recommending for all!”

Gina Cordier, Arizona

“For Janet”

Grace, Alabama

“My daughter, Sara died of serogroup B meningococcal disease last October while in her freshman year at San Diego State University. At 18, she had a bright future ahead of her. She was healthy, full of life and enjoying her time at SDSU when she came down with flu-like symptoms that turned out to be serogroup B meningococcal disease that, when diagnosed, was too late to save her. I urge every parent to understand the symptoms and learn how to prevent their children from contracting this deadly disease.”

Greg Stelzer, California

“The meningitis B virus took the life of a beautiful young 17 year old friend of ours. She came down with symptoms that very closely resembled the common flu until it was too late. There are too many situations where teenagers and early 20 year olds, gather in large groups at parties and other functions, where the close contact with one another can cause this disease to be spread. It has been my experience that there is just not enough education for these young adults about the dangers of this deadly disease. As with many other harmful diseases that we vaccinate against, this one should be near the top of the list, because of its ability to disguise itself as the common flu, therefore, not allowing the infected person the time to get the help that is needed to prevent it from taking their lives.

I have two young children approaching their teenage years, and the last thing that I want to happen as they attend high school or college, is for either one of them, or their friends to lose their lives to this horrible, preventable disease.

Please make this vaccine routinely available to the public, so that we can prevent more parents from experiencing one of the most horrific events that they can possibly imagine, one that our dear friends had to experience... one that doesn't have to happen.”

Gregory J. Carroll, California

“For Janet”
Guy, Alabama

“For Janet”
Haley Ackert, New York

“Rest in paradise Sara, we miss you.”
Hannah, California

“For Janet♥”
Hannah Mullaly, New York

“My beautiful friend, Sara Stelzer, was taken too soon by this disease.”
Hannah Oretta, California

“For Sara.”
Hannau Blitstein, California

“My son Michael Sean Hodges died from Meningococcal Meningitis after the first symptoms occurred on Wednesday. On Friday evening, his brain damage caused his death from the meningitis bacterium.

We didn't know about a vaccine that could have prevented his death, and now work with the NMA to ensure that parents, siblings and friends are aware of the damage these disease strains can cause. WE as family and friends of people who have been harmed by these meningitis strains, strongly, very strongly urge the deployment of the B vaccine as widely as possible. The FDA and CDC owe it to the American people to allow this vaccine to be made available to all Americans NOW. We do not need more deaths and bodily injury when the application of a viable vaccine is readily available.”

Harvey Hodges, Virginia

“My friend, Sara Stelzer would still be alive, had this vaccine been available.”
Hayley, California

“I lost my 18 year old niece Sara Stelzer last year.”
Heather Bowman, Utah

“My friend died from this disease and I think that everyone needs to be educated on the different strains of this disease to help prevent deaths.”
Heather Dingbaum, Colorado

“I went to college with Evan Bozof at GSW.”
Heather Gibson, Georgia

“Signing in honor of UCSD freshman Sara Stelzer from Moorpark, CA.”
Heidi Katz, California

“My daughter had type B at the age of 4. She lost her left leg below the knee. She was in the hospital over 40 days and multiple surgeries. So please please vaccinate your children.”
Heidi moody, South Carolina

“Death of college student and my daughter is a meningococcal disease survivor. Why not protect from all types of meningococcal meningitis instead of some?”

Heidi Wold, Arizona

“I am a survivor of HFlu meningitis.”

Hope Gentile, Pennsylvania

“My daughter contracted bacterial meningitis her senior year in high school - right before going to college and receiving the meningitis vaccine. She was gravely ill, air-transported to Yale New Haven Hospital and remained in a coma for 1 week. She became septic, given a 20 percent chance at survival and changed her life forever. She lived, but now she has a complement deficiency and her chances to contract meningococcal B are high. All should be vaccinated. All should be educated and prevention is the only solution.”

Ione R. Testa, Connecticut

“Young people shouldn't die unnecessarily.”

Irene S. Levine, New York

“For Janet”

Isabelle Sellon, New York

“I have lost someone close to me from this terrible disease, and there is no reason this should happen to anyone else if we have found prevention for it.”

Jaclyn Wukovits, New York

“In honor of Sarah Seltzer”

Jacob Cherry, California

“For Janet”

Jaime, New Jersey

“Sara Stelzer recently died of Bacterial Meningitis and she was like a sister to one of my best friends. My friend had to go through one of the toughest events in her entire life simply because this shot was not mandatory and I think that the tragic case of this young girl who died of this disease is reason enough to mandate this vaccine. It is a deadly disease and many lives can be saved simply through making this shot a necessity. No one should have to go through the loss that many people have gone through and especially not those who are much too young to depart from this world.”

Jake Bubman, California

“We almost lost our daughter to this dreaded disease. No one should ever have to go through fighting it off.”

James W. Mahlon, Pennsylvania

“Sara Stelzer, the daughter of friends of mine, lost her life to this. I am hoping this will save other beautiful children.”

Jan Ion, California

“Children need optimal protection -- including Meningococcal B. No one should die or become ill from a vaccine preventable disease.”

Jane Sarwin, New Jersey

“It took from us someone who was a very important part of our lives. We have gone on, but our lives are missing his presence every day!”

Janell C. Greene, Louisiana

“This awful disease took the life of my son's best friend, a young man who spent most high school weekends with our family and was like a second son. Our lives have been scarred by the loss of this very talented young man. We must do all we can to prevent even one more loss if it is in our power to do so.”

Janell C. Greene, Louisiana

“I am a public health nurse and I have seen the devastating effects of this disease. Please vote for this vaccine to become part of the routine immunization schedule so we can try and prevent this disease!”

Janet Mankowski, RN, Pennsylvania

“A friend’s daughter died from Group B meningococcal disease during her first year at college.”

Janine Romeo RPA-C, New York

“It is a terrible thing for these young children to die when there is an easy answer to prevent death for the B meningococcal disease. Getting the word out to the people and the health care workers. In Sara' case she went to see doctors and was told to go home. When she went back to the hospital it was too late.”

Janis Casparian, California

“I survived having bacterial meningitis...I would not wish the suffering I went through on anyone...”

Jayne Eber, New Jersey

“My daughter died from it.”

Jayne Bixon, New Jersey

“My daughter had meningococcal disease at age 29 requiring a kidney from me, bilateral amputations below the knees, and amputations of all her fingers. Every day is a struggle for her as she tries to walk on prosthetics with skin grafts over all of her legs. No more families should have to go through what our family has been through.”

Jean Aiken, Texas

“I have a friend who’s little boy died from this horrible disease the day before his 2nd birthday. He was a vaccinated child but his kind he got was not covered by a vaccine at the time. I also have a nephew about to start college in Oregon and it's a very scary disease that has been in our colleges here.”

Jeanne Snow-Hileman, Oregon

“Please pass this in loving memory of Sara Stelzer.”

Jeanine Alexander, California

“We lost someone very dear to us to this terrible disease.”

Jeanne Neville, New York

“My cousin, Andrea Jamie, passed away from meningitis B this past fall; a tragic loss. Please sign your name and help spread awareness.”

Jenna Maizes, New Jersey

“My sons are both in college. I contacted their pediatrician to request an appointment for the b vaccine. The doctor does not stock it...likely because it's not yet recommended.”

Jennifer Corrigan, New Jersey

“I lost my cousin Brendan to meningococcal meningitis in 1997, before there was a recommendation for the quadrivalent vaccine. His death has had a lasting impact on my life. Especially on my decision to study and work in public health.

The same year we lost Brendan, my little sister was born. In September she's headed to college. The idea that we could lose her to serogroup B meningococcal disease, because the available vaccine isn't really easily accessible without a recommendation, terrifies me.

Please make it easy for everyone to do the right thing and protect the class of 2019.”

Jennifer Hession, New Jersey

“For Andrea Jaime”

Jennifer Juarez, Florida

“As a parent of 2 teenage boys getting ready for college it is extremely important to me to protect their future. I urge ACIP to vote for a strong recommendation for meningitis b to be added to the childhood schedule.”

Jennifer Tinney, Nevada

“My soul sister, Sara Stelzer, died this past October because of this disease. I miss her terribly, and no more families should go through this kind of pain. We must take this risk seriously and vaccinate people against Meningitis B Strain.”

Jennifer West, California

“My cousin died from this disease last year. She was young, vivacious and full of life. She didn't deserve to die from such a horrible disease. I truly hope this will change the outcome for future young people.”

Jenny, California

“Meningococcal disease took the life of my only child. It was so shocking to find that his death could have been prevented with a vaccination. All serogroups are deadly and we now have the knowledge of prevention to protect our future. It's our job as a society with this knowledge to make sure we have recommendations in place ensuring that this knowledge is shared for generations to come. I'd rather read stats of the amount of kids protected than those who have died or survived with the trail of devastation this disease leaves. One death is too many when we have prevention.”

Jeri Acosta, Louisiana

"I lost my beautiful son to meningococcal meningitis. I didn't know there was a vaccine that could potentially have saved Jerry's life. If you as a parent could do anything to save your child, or someone else's, I believe you would do whatever it took to ensure their well-being. This disease can strike anyone, anytime, anywhere so please do the right thing and make sure teens are protected against serogroup B."
Jeri Greenwell, Maine

"My daughter, Addy, heroically survived meningococcal disease at age 6 months. Children should not have to be at risk of losing their lives from vaccine preventable illness!"
Jess Wolf, Pennsylvania

"I lost a childhood friend to this disease."
Jessica Rossi, Texas

"Lost a close friend in college to this. Evan Bozof."
Jessie Forte, Alabama

"I recently went to the funeral of a friend's son... he contracted meningitis in college and passed away. I saw the devastating pain in the parents' eyes and how senseless this loss was."
Jo Keans, North Carolina

"My tiny grandson died from this cruel disease."
Joan Peterson, Illinois

"Because of my grandchildren who are college aged."
Joanie Ward, Arkansas

"I have had the illness, it changed my life, I have all limbs, hearing and sight, but I have never felt good sense then, it is suspected that this caused my Fibromyalgia."
Joanne Culver, Kentucky

"Working to promote the benefits of immunizations in Pennsylvania, I have come to know the survivors of meningitis. The disease is devastating - to the person and to their families. The cost of care associated with a meningitis case far outweighs the cost to vaccinate. It's a "no-brainer." We should be recommending Meningitis vaccine that covers serogroup B."
Joanne Sullivan, Pennsylvania

"I lost my 10 year old cousin many years ago, and a neighbor boy of 18 about 10 years ago. Finding a cure or vaccine would be wonderful."
Jo-Anne. Wolfe, California

"I lost my son to this horrific decease. Please get the word out to vaccinate, it could safe your child's life."
Jodi Fox, Georgia

"I was on Evan Bozof's baseball team at GSW. Why would we not prevent this if possible?"
Joe Fullerton, North Carolina

“My niece, Sara Stelzer, a freshman at San Diego State, died October 2014 due to bacterial meningitis. If she had been vaccinated against the viral strain of meningitis. Sara was a very intelligent and outgoing young woman loved by all who knew her. We lost a wonderful soul needlessly.”

John A. Stelzer, Louisiana

“Lost a niece to this terrible disease.”

John Harkins, Pennsylvania

“My good friend suffered immensely from this disease. It has forever changed her life.”

Joseph Marin, Texas

“A good friend of mine Andrea Jaime lost her life due to this horrible disease. This vaccine needs to be allowed to save lives.”

Juan Paz, Florida

“My beautiful granddaughter was declared brain dead within 2 days of diagnosis. She was so healthy and vibrant and had just started college. Please make this drug available to all adolescents!”

Judith Bowman, California

“We lost our 19 year old daughter to Neisseria Meningococcal while attending Eastern Illinois University in 1999. I have worked to reduce the risk of this horrible disease in Illinois, this vaccine is needed.”

Judith Miller, Illinois

“Our good friend, Sara Stelzer, died from meningitis B this past year as a freshman in college. She received the required meningitis vaccine, and her parents thought they had protected her against this terrible disease. Please make this vaccine available to all, so that another family does not have to go through this devastation.”

Judy Beaulieu, California

“For Janet”

Julia, New York

“My close friend Kendra Stelzer lost her cousin to this disease. Her cousin’s name was Sara and her entire family is devastated by Sara's death. I would love to see the vaccine for this widely available.”

Julie Schiller, Arizona

“A friend of ours lost their 18 year old daughter to this preventable disease.”

Julie Smiley, California

“Lost a sweet friend, Evan Bozof at Georgia Southwestern State University. I worked in the athletic dept at the time Evan passed. He will not be forgotten. He lives on in the GSW athletic dept.”

Julie Smith, Georgia

“I lost a good friend to this terrible disease in college.”

Justin Sinderson, Georgia

“For Janet”

K, New York

“Last year my friends and I almost lost one of our close friends due to this strain. This NEEDS to be a mandatory vaccination!”

Kalee McKenna, Pennsylvania

“I am a meningitis survivor, as a result lost all 4 of my limbs. My life has completely changed and as an adult I am dependent on others. I was working as a registered nurse when it happened and had no idea the vaccine existed, nor did any of my coworkers. When healthcare workers are unaware of a vaccine because it isn't mandatory, that is a problem. There is always room to educate others. It is important to educate parents, teenagers, and everyone about this vaccine. Approving this vaccine will save so many lives and will prevent many from living there lives like mine as an amputee.”

Karen Crespo, California

“A 19 year old girl died from this disease. She was a dear family friend. As a parent of a child who died of a terminal illness- this vaccine can prevent a child's death and should be approved- No One Wants to experience this life without their child!”

Karen Devine, New York

“As a school nurse, I highly support this.”

Karen Farrell, New Jersey

“My husband’s best friend daughter died of Meningitis B a couple of days before Thanksgiving in 2013.”

Karen Jachimowski Sharpnack, Idaho

“Family friend of Sara Stelzer who'd died last October aged 18.”

Karen Jones, California

“A friend lost her daughter to the disease last year.”

Karen Kehoe, California

“My brother at the age of 23 was taken from us so suddenly within 7 hours. Had we known that a simple vaccination could have saved his life.

He would still be here with us. My heart will always ache!”

Karla Elizalde, California

“For Janet”

Kate Lawlor, New York

“I recovered from bacterial meningitis when i was under one years of age. I also have many heading off to college and i want him protected.”

Kate Meckstroth Teeter, Minnesota

“My friend lost a family member.”

Katherine, Colorado

“Another student at my university passed away from bacterial meningitis last year. I could never meet her, but I hear that she was bright and kind. Prevention is important.”

Katherine Leopold, New Jersey

“Meningococcal disease struck our 20 year-old daughter about 12 years ago and we lost her less than 24 hours from her first sign of becoming ill. Vaccines are the only sure way of preventing this awful disease. Please recommend routine vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal disease. Our daughter died of serogroup C but we had a young man in our town die 2 months after our daughter and he had contracted the B serogroup disease. I have been working with the M.O.M.'s program since 2004 and I urge you to continue to help us all fight this battle and pass legislation to include serogroup B vaccination recommendation. Thanks for hearing our plea.”

Kathleen Huddleson, Iowa

“As a health professional I've heard from colleagues of the concern and effort exerted to protect the Lehigh University campus in 2011 when they experienced an outbreak of meningitis B and as a parent I feel personal connection to the students of UC Santa Barbara, where my daughter once attended; therefore, I urge you to recommend routine vaccination against Meningitis B.”

Kathleen M. Brehm, CRNP, Pennsylvania

“On Oct. 16.2009 I lost my 20 year old son to meningitis. No mother should ever lose their child to a disease that can be prevented. Our family will never be the same. Please don't ever let this happen to anyone else.”

Kathleen Swantner, Pennsylvania

“Our good friends list their 18 yr old daughter to this disease last year. She was a freshman in college with so much life in her and in front of her. I don't want to have to have this worry for my own children when they are college age having seen the devastation of our friends.”

Kathryn Dianaty, California

“We lost a dear young friend 18 years old within 2 days of her first signs of meningococcal disease due to her and her loved ones where unaware of the signs.”

Kathy Korkmaz, California

“My son is a college student living in the dorms and I'm very concerned about meningitis.”

Kathy Sena, California

“I contracted strain B bacterial meningitis on March 4, 2000 at the age of 10. As a result, I lost both of my legs below the knee, most of my fingers, and function in my kidneys. I was blessed to receive a kidney transplant from my adoptive father in 2002, but the disease has unfortunately left me with many other life-long issues. The rejection medication has caused me to have high blood pressure and high cholesterol at a young age. Over the last 15 years, I have undergone over 100 surgeries on my arms and legs. However, I am just lucky to alive. I have met many wonderful families who have lost their children within hours of contracting the disease. Their losses leave a void that can never be filled.

Currently, I am six months away from becoming a nurse. This disease has invariably changed my life and the lives of everyone I love forever. Despite the challenges I face on a daily basis, I get a great sense of satisfaction from helping others in their time of need. The role of a nurse requires a love of teaching. Luckily, I have been a strong proponent of vaccination for meningitis and other preventable diseases since 2000. Preventing meningitis is so very important, especially since the recent approval on the B-strain vaccine.”

Kayla St. Pierre, Massachusetts

“Meningococcal type B has affected my life in May ways. When I was 4 I lost my only sibling to this disease. My brother was only 2. It was a tragic event as we were all on a family vacation having fun and 12 hours later my brother dies. In the 1990's a lot of people didn't know what this disease was. The hospital was not prepared for my brother to have meningitis. I have been part of national meningitis association giving talks to my college I attend and educating friends and family. My family wears the NMA bracelet every day! I'm singing this because this is my story and I wouldn't wish anyone else to have to lose a loved one to this awful disease!”

Kayla Thomas, Vermont

“For Janet”

Keaton Mueller, New York

“Our good friends lost their baby boy to this disease a day before his 2nd birthday.”

Kellei Martin, Oregon

“My baby nephew passed from this. I don't want to see anyone go thru that.”

Kelley Sullivan-Webb, Hawaii

“Meningitis killed a cousin of mine. Fully support getting vaccinated for all causes of this disease.”

Kelly Hession, Washington

“Make the right choice so we don't have to wait for children to die before circumstances dictate certain universities receive the vaccine. The disease does not discriminate.”

Kelly Laskowitz, Pennsylvania

“My brother contracted the meningococcal virus in November 2006. He was 47 years old. He survived. However, he lost both his legs below the knees, the ends of some of his fingers, bottom of his nostrils and part of his face around his mouth area. He learned to walk, dance, run, and drive again with the help of prosthetic legs. The facial damage however was another story. He endured 31 surgeries trying to rebuild his mouth area - to no avail. His body was covered in scars by the many skin grafts taken to construct a new mouth for him. He developed lung issues in 2011 from chemotherapy treatments earlier in his life for Hodgkin's Disease. He was a 2 times cancer survivor. He passed away in March 2014 due to lung issues. He never complained, was an advocate for other amputees, and lived his life without self-pity. He handled his disability with dignity, grace and lots of humor. He never considered himself disabled. He was the most amazing man I've ever known in my life. I guess maybe it should be recommended that adults with compromised immune systems be vaccinated as well as children and college students. I miss my brother more than anyone will ever know. Even though he never questioned why this happened to him, the rest of our family did - maybe it was to advise that adults be vaccinated too.”

Kelly Poplaski, Massachusetts

“For Janet”

Kelsey, New York

“Meningococcal disease took the life of my manager's daughter shortly after beginning college. I would never have realized how susceptible our children are and ignorantly would have thought that my own children were safe due to the conjugate vaccine they received But that is not enough. Routine vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal disease is needed now.”
Kenneth J Lanciani, Massachusetts

“As an RN I have seen what happens when our young people are not vaccinated. It is a horrible sight to see such potential lost forever that cough have been prevented!”
Kerry Lynn Cordier, Arizona

“I am a pediatrician, and believe that prevention against these devastating diseases is crucial. There are many teenagers who will benefit from routine vaccination against Serogroup B. Our family has personally been affected by this subgroup of meningitis. One of my son's high school classmates contracted this illness while away at college over a year ago. She did not survive (which is typically the case...by the time the medical professionals become involved in the care of a patient with this form of meningitis, it is too late). Our community is desperately awaiting the recommendation of routine vaccination against Men B.”
Kim Pezzone, Pennsylvania

“A sweet friend's daughter contracted this while in College. She has been dealing with so much more than a you adult should ever have to face. She is now scheduled for a transplant. That is not the end though now she will have to learn how to take care of her new organ to be able live a full life. I have a daughter about to start college and we have all her shots updated. My daughter was diagnosed at an early age with JRA. (Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis). Prayers for all the families that have to deal with the unthinkable.”
Kimberly Mangrum, Tennessee

“A friend's cousin died at 18 because vaccine was not available.”
Kimberly Smith, Arizona

“A young gal in our area died from this disease. It could have been prevented.”
Kristie Viveiros, California

“In memory of our beautiful little angel Phoenix Hoang!”
Kristina Muller, Massachusetts

“Sara Stelzer ... Freshman at San Diego State University passed in October of 2014, she was my Manager's daughter ...”
Kristyn Chiasson, Massachusetts

“I am a meningitis survivor. Vaccinations save lives!”
Krystle Grindley, Louisiana

“Please make this mandatory ... lives can be saved.”
Latha Vairavan, California

“It is important that protection is provided to these children. Especially those going off to college and not realizing how quickly feeling "sick" can turn into death. It should be mandatory to entry into high school and college.”
Laura Hamill, California

“If we can prevent 1 in 3 teens and young adults from suffering from death, brain damage, and limb/major organs loss by supplementing their vaccine protection with Meningitis B vaccine, I don't believe that students from Princeton, Univ of CA or more valuable than any other student in the US but special provision was made after outbreak on those campuses. Is money the sole hold up in providing protection from Meningitis B?”

Laura Harbage, Pennsylvania

“If it can save a life, please please do it!!!! No one should have to watch a loved one die with this if it can be easily avoided.”

Laura Melnick, Georgia

“Sister in laws youngest sisters step daughter passed at age 17. My incoming freshman received his first dose last week. Very hard to find the shot since most Dr's don't seem to have. Not sure if my insurance company will cover but if I have to pay I will. Not worth taking a chance.”

Laura Mulligan, New York

“Let me first start off by saying I am a Meningitis survivor! If it wasn't for the quick thinking doctors and nurses, I would not be here today. I wake up every morning thanking God that they were put in my life and were able to save me. I was 16 when I had to fight for my life. Little did I know this disease would affect me still to this day, at age 29. Prevention of this deadly disease is so important to me. If we can help just one person I feel like we've done our job in protecting innocent youth. Although getting through this life threatening/altering disease has made me who I am today, I do not wish it upon anyone. I STRONGLY support the routine vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal disease. This will save lives, isn't that what life is all about, helping others?”

Lauren Folkerts, Nebraska

“Family members close friends lost their 1st year of college Daughter to this.”

Laurie Coffman, California

“My 18 year old daughter Sara, a freshman at San Diego State University, lost her life to Serogroup B meningitis on October 17, 2014. I believe she would be alive today if she had the Serogroup B meningococcal vaccine.”

Laurie Stelzer, California

“My daughter lost a childhood friend to this disease the week before she was to graduate from high school.”

Laurie Walsh, New York

“I have friends who, along with their whole families, have been devastated by meningitis.”

Layne Holley, Alabama

“A close friend's daughter passed away from Meningitis B.”

Leigh Gillam, New York

“My family lost Kimberly Coffey and it didn't need to happen! She had her entire life ahead of her and a vaccine could have saved this from ever happening.”

Leslie Kramer, New Jersey

“My healthy 17 year old son died less than 24 hours after just having a headache. We thought it was the flu. I wish the meningococcal vaccines had been available so we wouldn't have lost our only son and his sister wouldn't have lost her only sibling. We miss him every day in spite of losing him 10 years ago.”

Leslie Maier, Arizona

“This past October, on my 17th birthday, I received a call that my good friend had succumbed to this disease and was pronounced brain dead within days. I never want anyone to receive a phone call like that again. Please take heed to this letter and all those who have been affected by this awful strain of meningitis.”

Lexa Bridgette Quinn, California

“My best friend survived this disease when she was younger, but it has caused many challenges in her life. It could save so many people!”

Lexington Cowart, Arkansas

“I knew a young man who died from this strain. That it could be prevented but not recommended for all teens is a terrible decision.”

Liesa Bromet, Florida

“Please save our children!!!”

Lillian Bosnoyan, California

“I have seen the devastation of this disease first hand as a both a nurse and when a friend's 17 yr old daughter contracted this. I have children 17 and 26 that I feel very strongly should be vaccinated. Eugene is only 2 hrs away from our home and many have contracted this there. It is only RIGHT that all children receive this vaccine, please ensure the protection of ALL of our children and make this a routine vaccination as it should be. I want my children vaccinated and I want other children exposed to my children vaccinated. Anything less is unacceptable.”

Linda Cotton, Oregon

“A very good friend of mine lost her son to meningitis at a far too young age.”

Linda Ficht, South Carolina

“After Sara's death, I was very concerned every time my sons would get a headache or neck would hurt. Boys don't necessarily want to go to the doctor for every little cold and they don't communicate their illnesses, let alone call every day from school. Having the vaccine would definitely ease my mind and concern that what they could have could be deadly.”

Linda M Langner, California

“This is a lifesaver.”

Linda Mallery, Washington

A cousin of mine died from meningitis at the age of 13! What a horrible death. I can't understand why the United States does not have, nor discloses any information about the B vaccine that should be provided to Children and young adults. We as a nation that supposedly has the best healthcare had to get an ok from our government to go to Europe to get the vaccine for the tragedy that happened at Princeton University. How is it possible that this vaccine is not available in the U.S. When this strain of meningitis is more devastating than the more known disease. I don't understand how our nation can keep this vaccine from our young adults.

Linda Miller, Connecticut

"My daughter in law's sister's boy died from this not even 2 years old. It has been very hard to see her go through this and how fast this disease destroys a life. We need to stomp this out."

Linda Rue, Oregon

"My daughter's sweet and kind friend Henry died from meningitis B in 2013. We should make this vaccine available for every teen."

Lisa, Minnesota

"My daughter, Emily, died 3 years ago from serogroup B meningococcal disease, at the age of 19. She was a freshman in college at Washington University in St. Louis, one of the happiest, brightest, most fun-loving and beautiful people I will ever know. www.emilybenatar.com."

Lisa Benatar, California

"Sara Stelzer, a beautiful freshman at San Diego State died from the disease and it progressed so quickly. The impact of this vaccine is critical to the future and protecting high risk group of students at colleges. Please support the community and provide this solution. You can save many lives and provide some comfort to parents."

Lisa Hemy, California

"My friend and patient, Nick Springer, got the disease at summer camp at age 14. He has lived his life with 4 amputated limbs."

Lisa Shatz, New York

"A friend from our neighborhood lost her daughter very quickly from this disease which broke my heart watching this family go through a horrible, devastating time. I hope this helps and gets the word out there. Thank You."

Lissa Gillette, California

"The daughter of a dear friend passed away last year from meningitis B. Her death would have preventable if a vaccine had been available. A true tragedy....no family should have to cope with such a situation.

As a mother of 3, I can't help but wonder why you wouldn't make a vaccine that can save lives available. The benefits of such a vaccine outweigh the risks."

Lopa Desai, California

"My friend's nephew died from this horrible disease."

Lorelei Scatamacchia, Tennessee

“I want my sons to have this protection.”

Lori Epstein, Michigan

“My infant daughter suffered a case of meningitis years ago, and while it was not fatal, it remains one of the scariest times of my life. I am a lucky and blessed woman, but so many do not fare as well. If there is anything we can do, we should!”

Lorie Moore, Georgia

“Very close friend lost their daughter to this disease.”

Louise Rastu, New York

“My sister passed away 9 months ago from bacterial meningitis. It all happened so fast that it was surreal. My family and I have had a hard time and we miss Andrea every day. My sister wanted to be a doctor. As a doctor she would have saved many lives. I'm trying to accomplish her goal for her by sharing her story and informing people about getting vaccinated. My family and I want a broad recommendation for this vaccine so no one else has to go through what we have.”

Lucia Jaime, Florida

“One of my close friends died last year because of it.”

Luisa Bittencourt, Florida

“At the age of 10, I lost my 13 year old brother to meningococcal disease. This infection struck and within 24 hours killed my only brother. It is important that all youth be vaccinated to prevent this infectious disease from senselessly taking lives.”

Luke J Pasick, New Jersey

“One of my close friends daughter died last year at the age of 18. Had this vaccine been required she would still be alive.”

Lynda Zissis, Arizona

“My life has been turned upside down and I grieve every day from the loss of my son.”

Lynn Bozof, Florida

“I am a college professor and I understand the need for students to be immunized against meningitis. Every year there are reports of students who die or become severely disabled from this disease. There should be routine immunizations against serogroup B meningococcal disease available to all teens.”

Lynn Carson, Ph.D. MCHES, Pennsylvania

“A friend of my best friend's died this year from this disease, and I am heartbroken to see how devastating her loss as a result of this impact has had on her family and the community, and I want to help prevent this from occurring to anyone else.”

Mackenzie Freeman, New York

“For Janet”

Maggie Devlin, New York

“Because of my daughter.”

Majid Tofighi, California

“My now 31 year old brother contracted meningococcal meningitis at 4 months of age but thankfully he was at his well-baby checkup when he started spiking temps and the pediatrician caught it super early and he no complications other than a PICU stay. If people were regularly vaccinated then it'll definitely help our population that cannot receive the vaccinations.”

Mandy Crespo, Florida

“I lost my two year old son to this disease. Dylan Robert McNeil.”

Marcus McNeil, Oregon

“Friends affected by this. It will save lives.”

Margaret Van Leuven, Idaho

“I have a close friend who was hospitalized with meningitis B last year. She nearly died, and it was terrifying how quickly she went from feeling fine to fighting for her life. A year later, we are lucky that she is with us, but she still lives with terrible effects from the meningitis, including hearing loss.”

Maria McDonnell, Pennsylvania

“It took the life of my beautiful niece Kimberly.”

Maria Wukovits, New York

“My friend’s son died at 13 years old from meningitis! It's a devastating disease! He was in church Sunday and was his normal self and died Monday!”

Mariam Vernak, New Jersey

“My friend lost her 13-year-old son to meningitis a few years ago.”

Mari-Ella Kelly, New Jersey

“Our 20 year old son passed away on December 15, 1997 from this horrific disease. We had never heard of meningococcal meningitis, nor were we ever made aware that a vaccine was available at that time. We thought both our children had been vaccinated with all of the required vaccines. Sadly, not knowing has changed our lives forever.”

Marilyn F. Hairston, Ohio

“A good friend of my daughter lost their child to this disease, so young so sad.”

Marilyn Ventura, Florida

“One of my best friends contracted this terrible disease and passed away within a short week. Her death has shocked me and changed my outlook on life. She was a promising young student who dreamed of helping people by becoming a doctor. We were both on the pre-med track at Georgetown University. Almost a year has passed, however, I am still in mourning over Andrea. I believe more people need to get vaccinated so this doesn't happen to any more loved ones.”

Marjia Jannati, Pennsylvania

“Signed and shared in honor of Sara Stelzer.”

Mark Jaeckel, California

“This is clearly a matter of ‘do the right thing.’”

Mark Loomis, California

“We lost our son Dante at 14 years old. Please - consider this when making this decision...Thank you.”
Martin Young, Wisconsin

“A dear family in our community had their 18 year old daughter taken from them by this disease. It is devastating.”
Mary A. Lehmann, California

“I have had two young college students that had been afflicted with this disease. One survived with complications that lasted years, the other died. It is imperative that we use the scientific research and known preventative vaccines to combat these illnesses. The benefit out ways any down side at this time.”
Mary Ann Mari, California

“As a nurse of 40+ years, I want to see all efforts mobilized to protect Americans by recommending routine vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal disease.”
Mary Anne Hegedus, California

“I lost my beautiful niece Caitlin Boyle to this disease when she was 19. She rec'd the standard shot before leaving for college but contacted the form that was not covered. We miss her every day and our lives have never been the same. Let's get the word out about the backup shot. We cannot let this happen to one more child.”
Mary Ellen Saasto, New York

“Our best friends lost their daughter, Sara Stelzer, because the vaccine was not available in the United States. Our daughter is a college student at UCLA who is the same age as Sara. I could not find a provider in our insurance network that had the vaccine. This vaccine must be made available for young adults living in a communal setting.”
Mary Jane West, California

“My 31 year old daughter died completely unexpectedly from meningitis. Every family should be spared the grief ours has endured. This could be accomplished if everyone was made aware of the necessity of the vaccination, as well as the booster and if the serogroup B vaccine was available to everyone. Sincerely.”
Mary Kelly, Georgia

“We owe it to all parents to ensure that their children are protected against Meningitis b so no other parent had to face the devastating loss of a child.”
Mary Koslap-Petraco, DNP, CPNP, New York

“Although meningitis has not personally affected me or my family, as a nurse I have witnessed the devastating effects of this deadly disease. I strongly encourage the ACIP to recommend the routine vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal disease for all adolescents and college-age students.”
Mary Napier, RN, Pennsylvania

“This vaccine is so important in preventing the potential death of any child or adult from bacterial meningitis. I have an 8-year old daughter and several nieces and nephews. To hear about Sara's tragedy hits home for all of us.”
Mary Roth McClurg, North Carolina

“Bacterial meningitis killed my beautiful 18 year old niece while attending the university. Taken so early in her life. Within 24 hours she was in a coma. Please help eradicate this devastating disease.”

Mary Stelzer, Arizona

“A close friend of the family lost their child last year to this strain of meningococcal while attending college in California. Let's protect our children and adults.”

Mary Wheatley, California

“In memory of Evan Bozof.”

MaryLen Walker, Georgia

“For Janet ♥”

Maya, Alabama

“Andrea Jaime from Georgetown University lost her life because of meningitis that was not treated early enough this past fall 2014. She deserved a long life and in her name I sign this.”

Mayra Alaniz, Wisconsin

“Cousin's beautiful daughter died from this in her freshman year of college.”

McGinley Family, New Jersey

“One of the girls I trained at work and am friends with had this when she was a toddler and it cost her a leg (almost two) and multiple surgeries! Please pass this!! She is now a nurse and working to help with this cause!”

Meagan Freeman, Arkansas

“I lost a friend & sister in Kappa Delta from meningitis. Nobody should have to experience the pain of losing somebody from this, so let's get people protected. AOT”

Megan Z, California

“My beautiful niece died because she wasn't vaccinated. She had such hope for a future in college.”

Melanie Bowman, California

“I lost my 18 year old sister to meningococcal disease 14 years ago and my life will never seem as full as it was before my younger sister left this Earth from this vaccine preventable disease. I beg you consider recommending routine vaccination for men. B. Vaccines save lives! The meningococcal vaccine was not routinely given at the time my sister passed, if she had been immunized, I firmly believe she would be here today!”

Melanie Wheaton, North Carolina

“I lost my beautiful nephew, Robert Michael Acosta, to this preventable horrible disease. He was like a son to me and like a brother to my children, especially my own son. My sister and her husband have fought a long battle to bring into legislature a law that will enforce the vaccination to protect us from what they've experienced as the most profound loss of their only child. I should only hope that every state follows Louisiana in their success on passing what is now the Robert Michael Acosta law.”

Melinda Danos, Louisiana

“For Janet”

Melissa, New York

“I had bacterial meningitis this day 15 years ago. I am lucky to have survived when the doctor told my parents to say their goodbyes. Kids need to be vaccinated.”

Melissa, California

“I survived spinal meningitis at 2 years old.”

Melissa Brown, Arkansas

“We lost our daughter Isabella Marie on December 8, 2010 at the age of 11 1/2 years old to meningitis. Our lives have been changed forever and this didn't have to happen but unfortunately we were not aware of a second meningitis vaccine being recommended at the age of 11 and her doctor never mentioned this at her well check earlier in the year. The pain we feel on a daily basis is horrible and we wish no other family had to experience it.”

Melissa Regacho, California

“My 21 year old son Henry Mackaman died from this strain just over two years ago. He was repeatedly misdiagnosed and then when finally correctly diagnosed he did not receive any dexamethasone that could have saved his life.

With the rarity of this disease and the difficulty with early diagnosis, I urge you to recommend this vaccine routinely for all those at risk. I realize this is an expensive vaccine, but I would pay anything to have been able to protect my son from dying.

I miss him every day and the pain does not go away. Ever.

This is about saving lives, not saving money.”

Meredith Leigh, Minnesota

“A friend ...”

Michael Dempsey, Texas

“As a meningococcal survivor this disease has changed my life and forever affected my family. I endured septic shock, multi organ failure, an 8 day coma, 3 months in hospital, a year of rehab and the loss of my right leg and partial left foot. The suffering for my family and I could have been avoided with a simple and safe vaccine. I strongly urge the CDC to recommend B strain vaccination in the same way they do other strains. It is clear the vast majority of cases in our colleges today are B strain - thus leaving the current CDC recommendation highly incomplete.”

Michael LaForgia, New York

“Meningitis took the life of my brother Jerry Allen Greenwell. The loss of his life is immeasurable and the only thing to validate it is to turn his loss into a tool to help save the lives of others. Please prevent others from contracting this devastating disease, please support vaccination!!!”

Michele Conde, Virginia

“My son, Jordan, received the Meningitis Vaccine that was available while a freshman at Towson University in 1998. Two years after he graduated from college, and no longer part of a "sub-population at increased risk" my 23 year-old, beautiful son with a promising future in front of him contracted meningitis serogroup B. He died two days later. The fear that Jordan felt when he realized how ill he was is something no parent ever wants their child to know! The anguish my husband and I feel each day due to the death of our son is something no parent should ever have. I still hear Jordan's surviving brother say, "I've always dreamed of having children who will play with Jordan's kids when he has them. My dreams died." **DON'T ALLOW ANOTHER FAMILY'S DREAMS DIE!!**"

Michele Feder, New Jersey

“We lost our precious 2.5 year old little boy Christopher Todd Call II to this terrible disease in 1998. It breaks my heart every time I hear of another family going through this heart break.”

Michele Goecke, Michigan

“My son Justin died from Meningococcal Disease at the age of 2 1/2.”

Michele L Thomas, Vermont

“My best friend lost her child to this.”

Michelle, North Carolina

“When I was 14 a very wonderful person, cousin, and best friend! He also was only 15 and way too young to die!! Please make this happen!!!”

Michelle Albrecht, Washington

“My 10 year old nephew contracted this hideous disease and was gone in seventeen hours. These vaccines need to be made available to anyone who wants them.”

Michelle Chapin, California

“My 15 year old daughter Jessica passed away December 26, 2007 with meningitis. She was a healthy full of life precious daughter. Our life has been devastated and changed forever due to this horrible disease that is vaccine preventable. At the time of her death the recommended age was 15 and she would have gotten the shot in March but she did not get the chance! Please help us to continue to educate & vaccinate so other families do not have to lose a child, brother, sister, mom or dad! Thanks so much for your help!”

Michelle Elkins, Alabama

“I am a survivor of meningitis. I don't want my children or anyone else to have to suffer like I did and continue to suffer for the last 13 years. I was lucky, not everyone gets to see another day like I have.”

Michelle Elson, California

“Our 22 year old daughter developed flu-like symptoms on Mother's Day in 2004. Thinking it was just the flu she chose to treat the symptoms herself. Eight hours later she was in the hospital fighting for her life. Fifteen hours later from the onset of the first symptoms, she lost this battle. We had never been told of the vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis - if so, our beautiful daughter might be with us today. There are two other families in our city who lost their children to this dreadful disease - all of us within nine months of each other. Our children did not know each other. Two of the children had serogroup C strain and the other was serogroup B strain. This is such a devastating disease that comes on quickly and can maim or kill within hours - our children need protection. Please recommend immunization for all children.”
Mike & Janet Evans, Iowa

“I am board certified pediatric emergency medicine provider and have seen too many children either killed or permanently damaged from this horrible disease.”
Mike Falk, New York

“My daughter contracted this strain last year while at school, and has permanent hearing loss, and has had a hard recovery. This vaccine could have saved her from all of this.”
Millicent Wilson, Pennsylvania

“This disease took the life of my daughter’s friend. Everyone should be protected and get vaccinated to prevent another tragedy from happening.”
Mimi Doris, California

“My friend, Amy Aiken, is a survivor of meningitis B.”
Miranda Welch, Texas

“This disease killed my good friend in her first year of college. This vaccine could have saved her life.”
Nadia Doris, California

“I lost my 14 year old granddaughter to meningococcal disease 10 years ago. Adolescents need to be routinely checked to make sure they have been vaccinated for this disease.”
Nancy Hall, Tennessee

“I know people who have lost loved ones to this disease. Let's embrace the science of the 21st century and protect our children with the vaccine.”
Nancy Metzger, Illinois

“Please do the right thing and make the vaccines available to everyone!”
Nancy Quinn, New York

“A girl close to my community passed away last year due to meningococcal disease, and now we are doing everything we can to insure that it doesn't take someone else's life.”
Natalie Shaffer, California

“For Janet”
Nathalie, New York

“This disease was the cause of death to my cousin Sara several months ago. She was only a freshman in college. An amazing young woman who was taken from this earth too soon.”

Nathan Kenney, Arizona

“I knew Sara.”

Nathaniel Wolverton, California

“For Amy”

Netera Pratt, Texas

“My best friend knew Sara.”

Nina Yanez, California

“In the memory of Jerry / Brunswick, ME”

NORA WILSON, Kansas

“Ten years ago, I lost my 13 year old son to meningococcal disease. Through the National Meningitis Association, I know too many parents that have lost children, and too many survivors that are living with terrible after effects of the disease. I urge you to make the serogroup B vaccine a routine vaccination. It's the right thing to do.”

Olga Pasick, New Jersey

“Friend contracted this last strain.”

Olivia, Massachusetts

“A friend very close to me died from this disease and it would bring joy in her memory for it to be stopped.”

Olivia Pecoraro, California

“In memory and honor of Sara Stelzer....hoping no other family has to go through the heartache like our dear friends and their family have gone through. Love you Sara....oxox”

Orlando and Kelli Arriola, California

“For Jan”

Paige, New York

“My grandson got it a week after he was born at 27 weeks while in the nicu ...then caused hydrocephalous. He is now almost 8 but has had to go through about 13 shunt revision surgeries. I wouldn't want this to happen to any more babies.”

Pamela Amacher, Wisconsin

“This is in honor of Sara Stelzer. Taken too early.”

Pat Wallace, California

“I have a friend who lost her son to this disease.”

Patricia M Vetta, Arizona

“Routine vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal disease would have saved a dear friend's daughter who was a freshman in college and had the other meningococcal vaccinations. Please, please make it part of the routine vaccination schedule to save lives!”

Patricia Truman Rennemann, Arizona

“I am in the pharmaceutical industry, but I work for a company that has no commercial interest in this issue. I have, however, been affected by the loss of a beautiful 18-year old woman, Sara Stelzer. Whether I look at the pharmacological risk/benefit or the pharmacoeconomic cost/benefit, it is quite clear to me that every child without a reasonably clear contraindication should be vaccinated for Group B meningococcal disease. Please do the right thing.”

Patrick O'Brien, PharmD, JD, California

Today, June 15, 2015 marks the third anniversary of my daughter Kimberly Coffey's death from serogroup B meningococcal disease. Kim had meningococemia and died a terrible death at the age of 17. I buried my daughter in her prom dress two days before she was to wear it to her prom and three days before she was to walk with her senior graduating class. My heart is shattered and I will never be the same.

I was under a false sense of security that my daughter was protected when I had her vaccinated against meningococcal disease. That turned out not to be so as she was unprotected from a serogroup I had never heard of - SEROGROUP B. Had there been a B vaccine available in 2012 I would not have been sitting at the cemetery today with Kim's now 20 and 21-year-old devastated friends at her tombstone talking about memories on her third anniversary. I absolutely believe that Kim would be alive today had there been a B vaccine and that she would be in her third year of nursing school - fulfilling her dream of becoming a pediatric nurse.

As a nurse, delivering a message to parents that there is a vaccine that can protect your child from serogroup B, but it isn't recommended for your child, is not only confusing but outright wrong!

One death is one child buried into the ground too many for their parents, grandparents, siblings and friends to endure. Our children deserve to have vaccinations readily available to them once they are FDA approved in order to save lives! Even if it is only ten lives per year. Without a broad recommendation from ACIP, I feel as though a dollar amount is attached to children's lives.

I urge you to recommend routine vaccination against serogroup B meningococcal disease.

Thank you,

Patti Wukovits, RN, New York

“I have witnessed the loss of children of close friends and feel strongly there should be every measure possibly taken and available for families to have to protect their loved ones.”

Patty Cappuccino, California

“In honor of my angel Tess Louise Whitson.”

Paul Whitson, Ohio

“No more lives should be lost when it would be so easy for us to prevent it by making this vaccine available to everyone.”

Paula Spadafora, California

“As a professional nurse & dedicated infection preventionist, I would strongly recommend support of this immunization practice.”

Peg Holland, R.N., Pennsylvania

“A dear friend lost her 18 year old daughter in October 2014 to this terrible disease, 2 months into her freshman year at college.”

Pegah Rabiee, California

“A friend's son passed away unexpectedly this year while in college due to this disease. Knowing that a vaccination could have prevented this tragic loss is heartbreaking.”

Peggy McClellan, North Carolina

“We have been part of the loss suffered by not having this vaccine available.”

Phyllis & Antonio Reveles, California

“My best friend, Andrea Jaime, died due to this disease. She was only 19 years old. If only the B vaccine was available for her maybe she'd still be alive.”

Priscilla Rodriguez, Florida

“Meningitis took the life of my friend Kim Coffey, although nothing can bring her back, we can prevent others from having to experience the pain & suffering that Kim's friends & family have had to endure. In addition, as a student who will be living in a college dorm setting, I want the vaccine for Serogroup B available for myself and feel that it is very important for my peers to also receive this vaccine. As mentioned in this letter, it only takes one person to start an outbreak. This vaccine can save hundreds of lives. College is stressful enough, so let's make it a little easier by helping to prevent the threat of becoming ill with Meningitis B.”

Rachel Brown, New York

“My 19 year-old cousin tragically passed away this fall from this disease.”

Rachel Maizes, New Jersey

“This vaccine could have saved Sara Stelzer's life if it were available. Please do not let another child die because of waiting.”

Raoul Bennett, California

“I urge you all to take one minute and sign this open letter. I will be joining the NMA on June 24 to tell Sara's story and asking for a broad recommendation for the Serogroup B Meningococcal vaccine. It would have saved Sara's life, and I don't want another child to die from this vaccine preventable disease.”

Ray Schoonmaker II, Pennsylvania

“A close friend's young cousin died from this deadly disease. I have grandchildren that I want to be protected from this.”

Rebecca Brueggeman, Arizona

“I lost one of my best friends to meningitis serogroup b. She was so young and could have been protected if there was a vaccine.”

Rebecca Neville, New York

“This recommendation is important to me and to my community at Georgetown University because of a tragic case of meningitis that ended the life of a young, bright woman who only wanted to help people.”

Rebecca Rojas, Massachusetts

“My friend lost her college age daughter to this dreadful disease.”

Regina Lammens, New York

“My friend lost her high school age son to the horror of meningitis.”

Renee Venetz, South Carolina

“My close family friend Sara Stelzer died last year as a freshman at San Diego State University from this disease. I truly believe she would be alive today if she had gotten the vaccine.”

Riley Lotta, California

“We lost a family of our delegation aka our family to this horrible disease. Sara would still be with us if common sense regulations were in place for vaccines. Please make the right decision and make this vaccination a require requirement so that no one in the future can be hurry by this.”

Rishi Sharma, California

“The son of a friend passed away from this terrible disease. Never want to see another family go thru that kind of heartbreak.”

Rita Gann, Georgia

“Lost my brother to this terrible disease.”

Rob Greenwell, Maine

“My friend.”

Robert Nieto Jr., Texas

“Please see that the vaccine is made available for all who chose to receive them.”

Robert Wolfe, California

“My son is a survivor of meningitis, but not without severe debilitating side effects.”

Robin Kephart, Ohio

“Friend lost her beautiful daughter, Paula.”

Robin M Roth, Virginia

“Friend’s son died from this. Need to protect our children.”

Robin Ofeldt, New Jersey

“Lost my beautiful 19 yet old granddaughter.”

Rochelle Stillman, Michigan

“For Janet.”

Rocio, New York

“For Janet”

Ronin Miceli, New York

“A dear friend has lost a child to this disease.”

Rosa Castillo, California

“Lost my grandson one day shy of his 2nd birthday to this disease.”

Rose, Oregon

“Lost my 15 year old daughter to a vaccine preventable meningitis & @ that time meningococcal vaccine was only recommended to 18 years old & above, for students in dormitories..... Now that the B vaccine is available, please make it part of the routine vaccination to protect our children!”

Rose A. Kwett, California

“Keep our children safe!”

Roseanne Simons, Michigan

“Like many families, I believed the current vaccine covers all the meningitis strands. We were devastated when our friend's daughter died of the disease last year. We send our kids away to college and they are not protected against this preventable disease. Please make this more available to all families so we can prevent this disease from spreading.”

Rosie Frank, California

“My daughter JADE GILBERT was affected by meningococcal meningitis at the age of two without any knowledge are warning, and have lived to suffer with the loss of both legs and all ten fingers and has also had to deal with so many other life's challenges. This disease has caused jade a total of 9 surgeries and social complications. For the last 14 years we our family has had to deal with the lack of not knowing and learning on our own, so yes I truly agree and support this movement for meningitis B vaccines to protect our teens.”

Roycenett Gilbert, Texas

“One of my dearest friends died this fall after contracting meningitis. She was only 19 years old. No doctor knew what it was that was making her so sick until it was too late. Her loss effected an entire University and changed not only my life, but others' as well. She wanted to be a doctor and was in the pre-Med program. She wanted to save lives.”

Ruby, District of Columbia

“I had the honor of knowing a fellow student who passed away from meningitis her freshman year of college. In her honor, I have drafted a bill requiring that college students be vaccinated for meningitis in California. This bill was passed by the California YMCA Youth & Government model legislature, and I am currently speaking to Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin and Senator Fran Pavley about potentially sponsoring it in the state legislature.”

Ryan Weinberg, California

“I lost my son to meningitis in 2009. Please help us protect our children from such s devastating illness.”

Sabrina McNeil, Oregon

“For Janet.”

Sam Bluvol, New York

“As a friend of a mother who lost her son this year to this strain and a mother of a college sophomore I ask please spread the awareness and prevention.”

Samantha Weldon, North Carolina

“As an RN I have personally witnessed the devastating effects of vaccine preventable illnesses. Vaccinations are one of the best innovations of medicine and we need to utilize this technology to the fullest extent.”

Sara Taylor, Michigan

“My good friend Amy Aiken just barely survived this terrifying disease.”

Sarah Artz, Texas

“On May 18, 2014 I contracted bacterial meningitis B, 1 month after graduating from college. Because of this disease, i lost 3 finger tips on my left hand and both legs below the knee. I have had 10 surgeries and have been in and out of hospitals for months. I was vaccinated against meningitis but not against this type. Both vaccines should be recommended for teens and young adults. No one should be misled into thinking they are fully vaccinated when they are not. I am back to work and my life now, but I am forever changed. Others are not so lucky. Vaccination is key to preventing meningitis and i think it is crucial that young adults get vaccinated before the upcoming school year. Please make meningitis B vaccines recommended!! Even one more case is too many.”

Sarah Koop, Michigan

“I had this type of meningitis. If I would've had the vaccination I wouldn't have lost almost all of my hearing. I also wouldn't have had to endure a year of recovery.”

Sarah Wilson, Pennsylvania

“A close friend lost her 18 year old daughter to the disease. Anything that can be done to prevent someone else from going through such a tragedy should be done immediately.”

Scott Mosier, California

“For Janet”

Sean McCrohan, New York

“My friend Sara died of it, and donated her organs to those in need. She was an enchanting woman, and if I can help others live by signing this, then I will without hesitation, hopefully someone won't have to go through what we did.”

Sean Pond, California

“My friend's died from the disease before she graduated high school. No one should have to go through that.”

Seema, New York

“For Janet.”

Shannon, New York

"I was told my son was not old enough to be vaccinated, even after he contracted meningitis, and I was told his sister was not old enough to be vaccinated even though her brother had already endured being in a coma, had to be resuscitated, and then became a triple amputee... having both feet, and half his right hand cut off. You can't tell me that Meningitis has an age limit. You can't tell me that if there is a vaccine, that we should not protect our children. I urge you to recommend this routine vaccination and protect children from this devastating disease."

Shara Cole,
Colorado

"I had the honor of meeting my friend Kayla during a summer vacation. She contracted the serogroup B meningococcal meningitis when she was younger. Signing this is important to her, and as her friend and a polio survivor, I'm all for preventative vaccinations."

Sharon, Massachusetts

"My cousin, Sara Stelzer, passed away just days after being diagnosed with strain B after being immunized for strain A."

Shaun Loretz, Arizona

"I have a friend that has suffered her whole life as a result of this disease. She has to live her life with one leg because of it.

She is a huge advocate for prevention, and now she is a nurse at a children's hospital to care for kids in the same situation she was at that age."

Shawn Brewer, Arkansas

"For Janet."

Shelby Kraut, New York

"A dear friend lost her daughter to this disease that could have been prevented."

Sherri Cirota, Pennsylvania

"One of my best-friends passed because of it. She was only 19 and planned to be a neurosurgeon."

Siara Espinal, Florida

"One of my teammates that I played with for years recently passed away from this."

Sinai Ortiz, California

"I wish I could meet you and your daughter! she is so nice and pretty and you seemed like one too"

Sofia, New York

"I lost a good friend of mine from this disease. I hope this vaccine saves other people."

Sofia Toche, Florida

"Too many young lives lost."

Stephanie Affie, Alabama

"Lost a good friend in college."

Stephanie Bennett, Georgia

“It took the life of a young man who played baseball with a friend of mine.”

Stephen Storey, Georgia

“My daughter's best friend lost her life to this disease and I don't want to see this happen to anyone again.”

Steven M. Quinn, Florida

“We have all suffered in the loss of Sarah. She was such a young, beautiful, vibrant girl who touched so many in the community. Please don't let another child or family suffer the same loss and approve this vaccine.”

Sue Blackman, California

“My daughter came down with it in 1994. Elizabeth has lost a leg, and to this day still has troubles. If the shot was out there she wouldn't had gone through this. So please help keep our children well.”

Sue Renee Kesterson, Arkansas

“A young lady, who went to the elementary school where I teach, died of meningitis last year. She had just started her freshman year of college in San Diego.”

Sue Rossen, California

“For Janet.”

Sunny Sousa, New York

“As director of a university student health service, I unfortunately have firsthand knowledge of this very serious illness. Our campus lost a student to meningitis B in late 1997, and two others survived it in 2011. If the technology were available to develop a pentavalent vaccine, there would be no question. It's clear that the most significant drawback to an expanded recommendation is cost, and that is a shame.”

Susan C Kitei, MD, Pennsylvania

“My nephew died from meningococcal meningitis, despite having both arms and both legs amputated in an effort to save his life. Please recommend vaccination against the B strain. It is vital that all children be protected against this deadly and devastating disease.”

Susan Greene, Nevada

“I have, in my 25 years of pediatrics, had the sadness of seeing previously healthy children and adolescents die before my eyes from meningococcal disease. This happened in spite of heroic medical efforts. It is a disease that any physician never wants to see again. The family of those affected would have given anything to prevent this tragedy happening to their child. Please approve this vaccine!!”

Susan Hoffman MD, California

“Within 4 days, my 12-year old daughter, and only child, died suddenly from bacterial meningitis, a vaccine-preventable disease. Our lives have been impacted forever, she was an otherwise perfectly healthy child with all the potential in the world. Initially, we were told it was the B strain, then an official report that came in the mail told us it was the C strain, for which there was a vaccine that was only being given to military recruits and college-age young adults at that time. Right after our tragedy, we made a public testimony at the CDC meeting in Atlanta that helped move the ACIP guidelines forward to recommend vaccinations for adolescent age group. Because it is the right thing to do, we implore the ACIP to recommend the B-strain vaccines to protect as many children as possible.”

Susan Koenig, Pennsylvania

“My son, Braden, lost his life to bacterial meningitis. This disease is REAL. Vaccination needs to be made available to everyone.”

Suzanne Schoelen, California

“My 17 year old nephew died of bacterial meningitis. His father is a physician, and had to stand by helplessly, as his colleagues tried in vain to save his son. If the vaccine had been made available, he would still be with us. No family should have to endure such a loss when it is preventable.”

Suzanne Hession, New York

“My son Casey passed away at age 17 on March 6, 2000. Please help us protect our children.”

Tama Lee, Georgia

“Contracted meningitis in my mid 20's, and 30 yrs later, I still suffer horrendous headaches & have struggled with Major Clinical Depression since having meningitis.”

Tammy Melvin, Alabama

“B strain nearly killed our daughter at 6 months of age...please vote to protect everyone.”

Tammy Wolf, Pennsylvania

“Because of Amy Aiken's case”

Tate Hubble, Oklahoma

“Had some one pass away last year from this disease.”

Tate Mor, California

“My best friend had it.”

Taylin Minnaert, Oregon

“I lost my beautiful 21 year old identical twin boy in 2003. There are no words to express the deep pain and deep loss that I am forced to live with. If I had known about a vaccine, my son would have been vaccinated. PLEASE do whatever it takes to make sure no parent has to live this nightmare. No one knows what this hopeless sadness is like unless they too have lost a child. I'm asking you to please do what you can to help keep our precious children healthy....”

Terri Finethy, Florida

“In my first year of nursing I took care of a 12 year old boy who suffered from this very meningitis. He lived, but suffered many problems that would affect him for the rest of his life. I was even involved in a lawsuit over his treatment. The family was told back in 1977 that he would be fine with treatment, but as an experienced nurse I now know that he would not have been as he was severely infected. This has affected me almost my entire nursing career. I can only imagine the pain in his family.”

Terrie Snow RN, MSN, CPNP, California

“It took the life of my daughter's sorority sister and friend.”

Tessa Zeller, California

“We witnessed firsthand how meningococcal disease affects a residential college community. I am in full support for protecting adolescents and young adults against this deadly disease.”

Thomas J. Novak, DO, Pennsylvania

“One of my favorite hero's Gavin Bennett suffered from this hideous illness and causes him and his family and everyone that sees him, daily reminders of why this disease must be forefront.”

Thomas S. Johnson, South Dakota

“A good friend lost her daughter to this terrible disease. If options exist for prevention, they should be widely available so others can review the risk/reward profile and decide for themselves whether to vaccinate themselves or their children.”

Thomas Witt, California

“No more children should die from this strain. Thank you.”

Todd Tushla, California

“Our 27 year old son went to his doctor Tuesday night and was diagnosed with an ear infection. He had some sort of seizure Wednesday morning, transported to the hospital and diagnosed with meningitis. Jessi never regained consciousness. There was no warning, nor any indication that this bright, beautiful and loved filled man was in danger. He was a healthy, vital young man that had just been promoted to regional sales manager for a local construction company and passed away two days prior to his wedding date.

It has been five years and still can't fill the empty space he left in our lives. We often wonder how our lives might have been spared this devastation had a vaccine been available and taken advantage of earlier.”

Tom Shamer, Florida

“Sara was a lovely and spirited young lady with endless potential. My daughter was good friends with her and they both were attending the same university when the tragedy occurred. I am so sorry for the family and the community will feel her absence deeply.”

Tony Geivet, California

“Horrible disease that I don't want my 3 children to ever have to deal with.”

Trent Wilson, Pennsylvania

"This disease took my 14 year old daughter's life 10 years ago. I did not know there was a vaccination to prevent this disease or she would have received it. My heart breaks every time I hear of another life being lost or affected by this disease and hope that one day, very soon, that vaccination will be required for all children. Thank you!"

Tresa Whitehead, Tennessee

"We have a weapon against this rare but deadly infection. Waiting for deaths or near-deaths to occur before vaccinating isn't acceptable. Please recommend routine vaccination against mening B. Thank you."

Trish Parnell, Washington

"Yesterday was all about treating the symptoms (if there was enough time to do so) - today is all about preventing the problem in the first place! Let's keep up with the times."

Ulrika Nilsson, New York

"Nothing is worse than watching someone suffer unnecessarily from preventable diseases."

Valerie Kerencev, New Jersey

"My aunt nearly died of it and lost her hearing as a result from the drugs they gave her."

Vanessa Maran, Nevada

"A close friend of mine lost his daughter to Meningitis, so I now realize how important this is!"

Vicki Reed, Arizona

"I have three grandchildren and i want all kids to be safe from these horrible illnesses!"

Vicky Hickson, California

"My 6 year old grandson passed away from meningococcal meningitis."

Victoria A. Smith, Tennessee

"Someone close to my teenage son passed from this recently."

Virgil Brown, California

"For my beloved friend, Janet."

Virginia Cava, New York

"I watched a very dear friend loss his brother to meningitis. It was devastating."

Wendy, Maine

"Ten years ago, my son, Luke, lost his life when he was 20 years old when he contracted Meningitis B. We continue to try to adapt to the world without our son and brother. Please recommend the vaccination so others may be prevented from going through what our family went through. Thank you for your time."

Wendy Robenalt, Iowa

"Meningococcal disease (Serogroup B) took my Niece Kimberly Coffey's life on June 15, 2015. This vaccine needs to be included with all meningitis vaccinations to prevent more tragedies."

William J Quinn, New York

“As a pediatric nurse I urge you to recommend this vaccine for all children regardless of increased risk factors. If we can prevent one death, one loss of body function we should strive to do it. Thank You.”
Winnie Sheets R.N., Texas

“My family had to say good bye to my brother in law three days after Christmas just this past year in 2014. The devastation of his loss is monumental for our family. Everything happened so suddenly. The disease attacked hard and shut down every major organ in his body eventually leaving him brain dead. He left behind my sister and three teenage children at the most critical time in their lives. If this disease is preventable, ALL should be vaccinated. Make the right choice because standing vigil with helpless hands and eventually watching the heart monitor stop beating is nothing a family should have to endure! R.I.P. Keith Lynch!”
Yvette West, Virginia