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On Behalf Of:

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Health coverage based on real science, that saves lives, and reduces risk/harm to others should be a priority. Navigating where to find a proven life-saving vaccine for my adult family and child under 5 years of age has been difficult every year, with last year being one of the worst due to the further politicizing of medicine.

Last year when confirming with my child's pediatrician when the new COVID and Flu boosters for the season would be available, they initially told me they will contact me when they get their supply in. A week later during a check-up, their pediatrician said they will not be getting the COVID Vaccines in office because of the change in vaccination rules without any scientific evidence based backing. Their reason was it would be too challenging for their office to gain and use up the stock. When we inquired about getting a prescription for a pharmacy with stock to provide the vaccines, they were again uncertain if that would be possible given the rules change.

Every year that the repeatedly proven safe COVID vaccine becomes available to the adult public, we run into issues finding an administrating source for our child. For their first COVID vaccine at 6 months age, we had to call around and drive over an hour away to find a medical office providing the COVID vaccine for infants despite the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) stating, "Infants and children 6 through 23 months of age are at high risk for severe COVID-19."* Another year when my child's pediatric office was having difficulty sourcing the vaccine due to limited availability, we found an urgent care that charted they provided the adult dose instead of the youth dose, further adding stress where it should not have been. If children's health and medicine were treated with the care the kids deserve, my child could have received the correct vaccine dose with a pediatrician in office or if pharmacies offered younger children's vaccines in line with (current and former) CDC recommendations and in line with current AAP recommendations, that would not have happened. COVID remains a leading cause of death among children**, and Long COVID is the leading chronic health problem among children (surpassing asthma).***

Adults in my life had to seek out COVID vaccines by becoming COVID vaccine study participants, not even knowing what they were getting, but trying to do their best to protect themselves and those around them.

We can do better than this; and we owe it to each other to ensure everyone has access to vaccines.

Sourcing:

*<https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/156/5/e2025073924/203222/Recommendations-for-COVID-19-Vaccines-in-Infants>

** <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2834486>

***<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2800816>