THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

February 25, 2014

Mr. David King
Chair
Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines
4 Briarcliff Lane
Holmdel, NJ 07733

Dear Mr. King:

Thank you for providing me with five new recommendations from the Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines (ACCV). Please be assured that these recommendations will receive careful review within the Department.

The new recommendations concern: (1) extending the statute of limitations for filing injury and death petitions with the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP); (2) increasing the benefits caps for pain and suffering and death; (3) compensating for injuries sustained by a live-born infant whose mother received a vaccine while the infant was in utero; (4) expanding coverage under the VICP to include vaccines that are recommended for routine administration to pregnant women and are not specifically recommended for routine administration in children; and (5) considering a health professional with expertise in obstetrics to serve as a member of the ACCV.

The ACCV's advice and recommendations for improving the VICP play an important role in our public health efforts. I appreciate your commitment to improving the health of our nation, and I look forward to our continued work together on vaccine issues. I will also provide this response to Ms. Michelle Williams, Vice-Chair of the ACCV.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sebelius

Kathleen Sebelius