Association of Immunization Managers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2026

CONTACT: BRENT EWIG
bewig@immunizationmanagers.org

AIM Alarmed by Loss of Measles Elimination Status: Urges Congress to Invest Additional $418 Million

[ROCKVILLE, MD] – November 17, 2026 -On November 17, 2026, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) announced that the United States has lost its measles elimination status. The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) is deeply concerned by this development and calls on Congress to take immediate action.

"Losing measles elimination status is a national wake-up call. Our state and local immunization programs know how to stop measles, but they are being asked to fight a growing threat with the same resources they had ten years ago. Congress has the power to turn this around, and the time to act is now," said AIM Executive Director Claire Hannan.

With 5,182 measles cases already reported in 2026, far too many people are being exposed to one of the world's most infectious diseases. Measles exposure puts lives at risk, including millions of infants too young to be vaccinated.

This setback can be reversed, and that requires decisive leadership. AIM calls on Congress and the Administration to act now by providing:

1. Adequate and sustainable resources for immunization programs
2. Clear and consistent public messaging from the federal government
3. A swift response to stop further spread of infection

PAHO outlines four elements needed to maintain elimination status: 1) vaccination coverage of 95% or higher, 2) disease tracking that is sensitive enough to catch cases early, 3) strong laboratory capacity to rapidly identify cases and understand virus transmission, and 4) a rapid response by the health authorities whenever an outbreak starts.

In the United States, state and local immunization programs are on the front lines of outbreak response, yet their base federal funding from the Section 317 Immunization Program has remained flat for years. These programs cannot meet a growing threat without adequate and sustainable resources to prevent cases and contain outbreaks.

AIM urges Congress to **fund the Section 317 Immunization Program at $1.1 billion in FY 2028– a $418 million increase over the current $682 million**. Investing now will help immunization programs prevent outbreaks rather than continually respond to them.

“Our hearts go out to those impacted by measles. We must do everything we can to prevent further tragedy from this terrible, highly contagious disease,” said Hannan.

###

About the Association of Immunization Managers:

The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) is a nonprofit membership association comprised of the directors of the 66 federally funded state, territorial, and local public health immunization programs. AIM is dedicated to working with its partners nationwide to reduce, eliminate, or eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases. AIM also works to ensure the success of its members by providing support in their programming interests. Since 1999, AIM has enabled collaboration among immunization managers to effectively control vaccine-preventable diseases and improve immunization coverage in the United States. For more information on AIM, please visit www.immunizationmanagers.org/