



Steve Krug, MD
Chairman
National Preparedness and Response Science Board
225 E. Chicago Avenue, Box 62
Chicago, IL 60611

Michael R. Anderson, MD, MBA, FAAP
Chairman
National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters
11100 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44106

Dear Drs. Krug, Anderson, and members of the National Preparedness and Response Science Board, and the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters:

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response was established by the 2006 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act. It was reaffirmed by the 2013 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act, with a mission to lead the nation in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the adverse health effects of public health emergencies and disasters. Central to the implementation of this mission is building community resilience and the early development of next-generation leadership in the emergency preparedness and response. Our nation's youth are an undervalued resource in this regard.

I hereby request that the National Preparedness and Response Science Board (NPRSB) and National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters (NACCD) consider the issues and opportunities in engaging our nation's youth in activities related to building resilience and to preparedness and response, identify promising practices, and to recommend a discreet, prioritized set of strategic and tactical opportunities to engage to accomplish this goal. I ask that the committee highlight the unique contributions that youth can make to community and national preparedness and response, and that they pay particular attention to issues and opportunities for youth from the range of language and cultural backgrounds, family composition, socioeconomic status and other factors that characterize the country.

I am confident that given the combined expertise of the NPRSB and NACCD, both federal advisory committees will offer valuable insights on these very important issues. I look forward to receiving the joint NPRSB and NACCD recommendations by October 28, 2016.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lurie, MD, MSPH