



**Statement from Every Child By Two Regarding Vaccine Comments Made During the
GOP Debate on September 16, 2015**

September 17, 2015

Last night's GOP debate was a disaster for children's health. The politicization of childhood vaccines to grab headlines forgets the true purpose of immunization: To save lives.

Our country has achieved the highest immunization rates in history thanks to the vast majority of parents who are choosing to vaccinate their children according to the rigorously tested vaccine schedule recommended by CDC. In fact, the percentage of children who receive no vaccinations in this country is less than 1%. The CDC schedule has been carefully developed with an eye toward protecting vulnerable infants as early as possible against dangerous infectious diseases. Study after study shows that vaccines are just a drop in the ocean compared to the tens of thousands of challenges a baby's immune system is exposed to the moment she leaves her mother's womb. Yet, some parents today are being swayed by misinformation that has caused them to delay or decline vaccinating their children, jeopardizing the health of many others. The measles outbreak earlier this year in California is a poignant reminder of our need to protect all children.

For hundreds of years, politicians on both sides of the aisles have supported vaccinations by making real and meaningful laws to protect the public's health. We cannot turn children's health into another pointless political battleground.

Every Child By Two- Carter/Bumpers Champions for Immunization (ECBT) is a nonprofit organization committed to reducing the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases among families. Founded in 1991 by Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and Former First Lady of Arkansas Betty Bumpers, ECBT plays an integral role in helping to set immunization bi-partisan policies and implement vaccination efforts that have lasting impact on the health of our nation.