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February 17, 2017

Dr. Gillian Buckley
Staff Officer and Study Director
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: National Academy of Science (NAS): National Strategy for Eliminating Hepatitis B and C

Dear Dr. Buckley:

On behalf of more than 8,500 pediatric nurse practitioners and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses committed to providing optimal health care to children, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments as your committee prepares its Phase II report.

NAPNAP and its members applaud the Academy for investigating the feasibility and strategizing goals to eliminate Hepatitis B and C, a costly public health issue in the United States. We understand that such a project will require tremendous will and resources and that short-term focus may be more on disease control.

However, we strongly urge the committee to consider educational recommendations in its Phase II report. We believe that healthy children lead to healthy adults. Educating children and adolescents about liver health and promoting healthy food and lifestyle behaviors will prevent them from becoming victims of preventable illnesses as they age. Dr. Schwarz's study, *Positive Impact of a Shelter-based Hepatitis B Vaccine Program in Homeless Baltimore Children and Adolescents*, showed positive results in vaccine acceptance when children and adolescents were educated about hepatitis B. Preventing future generations from falling victim to Hepatitis B and C and other liver diseases will save billions of dollars in chronic health care costs.

Again, thank you for the work your committee has undertaken on this critical issue. We look forward to your Phase II report.

Sincerely,

Cate Brennan, MBA, CAE
Executive Director