

The programs removal is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> and will leave more than 4,000 families within the USA at risk of deportation. Civil rights advocates even took this to court, stating it was racially motivated. Kiazolu testified as she is one of the fifteen plaintiffs in the case.

This removal will have a great effect nationwide both within our general communities and the economy. Families will be forcibly removed from their homes, children will have to learn why they are being kicked out of the only place they have ever known, small businesses will close and that is just the tip of the iceberg for what lies ahead. †

## Measles Outbreaks and Minnesota Vaccine Bill

BY ELI GRUBBS

**T**HE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) REPORTS twelve states with confirmed measles cases in the U.S. this year: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Texas, and Washington. There have been 228 individual cases reported between January 1st and March 7<sup>th</sup>, making 2019's total over half that of 2018's 372 cases, and in less than three months time.

Measles, a childhood viral infection that attacks the immune system and is usually preventable with a vaccine, has a 90% infection rate among those who are not vaccinated and come into contact with an infected person. Given the contagion rates and the seriousness of the disease, organizations such as the CDC and the World Health Organization advocate for vaccines, saying that the benefits outweigh any possible risks.

According to the CDC,

"There will be further spread of measles in U.S. communities with pockets of unvaccinated people,"

while the source of outbreaks are linked to travelers coming from places overseas where measles runs more rampant.

Although Minnesota is not one of the states included in the CDC's list, it was one of the ten states in 2018 to have a reported measles outbreak. There is an increasing concern over required vaccines for children entering school, and while there is only an estimated 2% of public school entrants whose parents claim exemption on non-medical grounds, that number fluctuates depending on the county. Many believe this is due to disinformation campaigns by anti-vaccine supporters.

Representative Mike Freiberg, DFL Golden Valley, proposed a bill called HF 1182 that's aim is to provide funds for vaccine advocacy campaigns through a two-year grant. No budget amount has been set yet for the grant, but with mounting weariness about measles and other childhood illnesses, many are hoping the bill goes through as it is a step further towards achieving universal vaccination. †

## Rise in Young Minnesota Voters

BY ZACK MOELLER

**A**S THE WARM WEATHER STARTS TO ROLL IN and more people begin announcing their campaigns for the next presidency, last fall's midterm election is already starting to be a distant memory.

Some pretty interesting statistics and voting patterns were seen during that election, many which should be kept in mind as the race for the presidency comes online.

Minnesota saw young voters between ages 18 and 29 nearly double their election participation last fall, with almost 40% of young voters participating up from 21% in the midterms of 2014. This is quite a bit more than the turnout in voters aged 65-79, who only saw a 10% increase since the last midterm election. Older voters still reign supreme over the young vote, 80% of voters in the 65-79 category show up to vote, twice as much as the 40% in the 18-29 age range.

So what does the decreasing gap between young and old voters mean? Dan Hofrenning, a political science professor at St. Olaf College, called the statistics "striking." He said that the increase in young voters should benefit the Democrats if the trend continues as the younger groups tend to be more liberal than the older groups. "It's clear that right now Millennials and Gen Xers are much more liberal than the rest of the electorate. Their House vote nationwide was 2-1 for Democrats," Hofrenning said. "On social issues, they are quite liberal, and increasingly they are asking questions about the capitalist economy." He attributes this rise in young voters to figures like Barack Obama and Bernie Sanders by connecting to the younger audience. The only thing in question is whether young voters will continue to hold their views as they age.

Another topic that could affect the young voter statistics is the push to lower the voting age from 16 to 18. Senator Shemia Fagan, a Portland Democrat, says lowering the voting age could bolster voter turnout, spur civic engagement, and encourage civic education. If the bill passes, the vote will appear on 2020 general election ballots. If passed by voters, the proposal would make Oregon the first in the nation to lower the statewide voting age to 16. Minnesota, as well as Arizona, North Dakota, and Michigan, have also pitched the idea to lower the voting age, having the potential to play a serious role in future elections and voter turnout. †

## Second Man Free of HIV Leads Scientists One Step Closer to Finding Cure

BY HALLE MARTIN

**A**N ANONYMOUS MAN IN LONDON HAS SEEN HIS HIV GO INTO REMISSION after being treated for Hodgkin's lymphoma. The man, known to the public as "the London patient," received a bone marrow transplant for his cancer from a donor with HIV resistant cells. This led to the patient's own body developing these cells, causing the virus to seemingly disappear from his body. He is the second patient living with HIV to experience the virus's remission since the disease broke out in 1981. This news comes twelve years after scientists cured the first patient, Timothy Brown, in Berlin.

Similarly, Timothy Brown had received two bone marrow transplants for leukemia from a donor with a mutated protein, known as CCR5, that coats the outside of certain immune cells. This protein is what the HIV virus binds to, using it to enter the cells. However, it is not able to enter through the mutated CCR5. After the transplant, Brown was given heavy doses of immunosuppressive medications which lead to deadly complications that forced doctors to put him into a medically induced coma. Brown survived the procedure and found himself not only cured of cancer, but all traces of the HIV virus seemed to be gone too. Eventually, Brown was able to discontinue the medication treating his HIV. Twelve years later, Brown continues to live his life HIV free.

Scientists continued to try the procedure on new patients after Brown's success in 2007. Initially, the virus seemed to disappear in these patients as well but continued to reemerge roughly nine months after they stopped taking their HIV medications. Due to the extensive medications and medically induced coma that nearly killed Brown, the case got written off as merely a fluke or perhaps a result of the intense attack on Brown's immune system during said treatments.