

June 18, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

The undersigned medical professional organizations are writing to express our significant concern regarding your recent action to terminate the entirety of the membership of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). ACIP has, for decades, been a trusted advisory to CDC and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services leadership, providing evidence-based recommendations regarding vaccinations through a transparent public process. We strongly urge you to immediately reinstate the terminated members of ACIP and honor their commitments to serve through the end of their appointed terms. When the terms of current ACIP members come to an end, we strongly urge you to follow the long-established public process for ACIP nominations and selection of members, ensuring that experience and subject-matter expertise are prioritized.

Since its founding in 1964, ACIP has played a critical role in protecting the public's health. ACIP panel members, selected for membership based on their significant experience and expertise in the field, provide a critical opportunity for public review of vaccine safety and efficacy data independent of elected or appointed officials. In addition to providing recommendations for childhood immunization schedules, ACIP provides recommendations for routine adult immunizations, collaborates with international partners on strain selection for immunizations updated annually, and plays a critical role in responding to public health emergencies.

We are already seeing a lack of trust in safe and effective vaccines result in a dramatic increase in vaccine-preventable diseases, as evidenced by the ongoing measles outbreak—an outbreak that has sickened over 1,100 and killed three. According to the CDC, 67 percent of cases were reported in children under the age of 20 and 97 percent were not fully vaccinated, had unknown vaccination status, or were not vaccinated at all. Removing a panel of independent experts appointed through a transparent, public nomination process and selected for their expertise on this issue will undoubtedly seek to sow further doubt and cause growing confusion among healthcare professionals and their patients, leading to additional increases in potentially serious illness among our patients.

Additionally, changes to the ACIP panel and ultimately to vaccine recommendations may have severe consequences for the public's access to immunizations. As you know, vaccine coverage by health plans is largely based on CDC vaccine recommendations. Changes to these recommendations can have dramatic consequences on health plans' coverage policies and may

result in these plans dropping coverage for vaccines removed from immunization schedules. For many patients, a lack of coverage will effectively mean a lack of access, thereby raising the risks of increased spread of vaccine-preventable disease. As such, we urge the Administration to honor its early commitment to maintaining access to vaccines for all Americans who want them. This includes promoting policies that ensure continued coverage for routine immunizations.

To truly improve the health of our nation, including the health of our children, we must do everything in our power to protect our patients from vaccine-preventable disease by ensuring continued access to safe and effective vaccines licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. A critical step in preserving access and promoting trust in these life-saving immunizations is to continue our decades long commitment to a transparent and independent review of evidence-based recommendations by unbiased clinical experts. We therefore urge you to immediately reinstate the previously appointed ACIP members so they can continue their important work through the end of their appointments. We look forward to working with you to continue to promote the health and wellbeing of our patients and to ensure continued access to safe and effective vaccination.

Sincerely,

American Medical Association  
Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
American Academy of Emergency Medicine  
American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
American Association of Public Health Physicians  
American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology  
American College of Chest Physicians  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Lifestyle Medicine  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Rheumatology

American College of Surgeons  
American Epilepsy Society  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Society for Clinical Pathology  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Anesthesiologists  
American Society of Cataract & Refractive Surgery  
American Society of Dermatopathology  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Neuroimaging  
American Society of Nuclear Cardiology  
American Society of Transplant Surgeons  
American Thoracic Society  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
College of American Pathologists  
Endocrine Society  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
Korean American Medical Association  
National Association of Medical Examiners  
National Medical Association  
Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medical Association  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Pediatric Dermatology  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons  
Society of Critical Care Medicine  
Society of Hospital Medicine  
The American Society of Dermatopathology

Medical Association of the State of Alabama  
Alaska State Medical Association  
Arizona Medical Association  
California Medical Association  
Colorado Medical Society  
Connecticut State Medical Society  
Medical Society of Delaware  
Medical Society of the District of Columbia  
Hawaii Medical Association  
Idaho Medical Association  
Illinois State Medical Society  
Indiana State Medical Association  
Iowa Medical Society

Kansas Medical Society  
Kentucky Medical Association  
Maine Medical Association  
MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society  
Massachusetts Medical Society  
Minnesota Medical Association  
Mississippi State Medical Association  
Missouri State Medical Association  
Montana Medical Association  
Nebraska Medical Association  
Nevada State Medical Association  
New Hampshire Medical Society  
Medical Society of New Jersey  
New Mexico Medical Society  
Medical Society of the State of New York  
North Carolina Medical Society  
North Dakota Medical Association  
Ohio State Medical Association  
Oklahoma State Medical Association  
Oregon Medical Association  
Pennsylvania Medical Society  
Rhode Island Medical Society  
South Dakota State Medical Association  
Tennessee Medical Association  
Utah Medical Association  
Vermont Medical Society  
Medical Society of Virginia  
Washington State Medical Association  
Wisconsin Medical Society  
Wyoming Medical Society