

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 26, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write with deep concern regarding the recent actions of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to alter long-standing vaccine recommendations. The panel's decisions to discourage use of the combined measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine for children under four, to consider delaying administration of the hepatitis B vaccine at birth, and to limit the use of the COVID-19 vaccine run counter to overwhelming scientific evidence. These actions threaten decades of progress in protecting children and families and place millions of lives at risk.

Vaccines are among the most effective public health tools ever developed. Before the measles vaccine, 3–4 million Americans were infected each year, resulting in 400–500 deaths and 48,000 hospitalizations annually. Prior to the polio vaccine, more than 15,000 children were paralyzed every year in the United States. Smallpox alone killed an estimated 300 million people worldwide in the 20th century, until it was eradicated through vaccination. And in more recent history, the COVID-19 pandemic claimed over seven million lives globally and ground our economy to a halt—but, since the distribution of the vaccine, an estimated 15 million deaths have been averted, and stores, schools, and places of worship were able to reopen. These are not just statistics — they represent lives saved, families spared immeasurable grief, and communities safeguarded.

Every major medical and scientific authority — including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Medical Association (AMA), the World Health Organization, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America — is unequivocal: vaccines are safe, effective, and one of the greatest public health achievements in history. The AAP has called immunizations, “The safest and most cost-effective way of preventing disease, disability and death,” and the AMA has declared that, “Vaccines are one of the safest and most effective tools for stopping the spread of preventable diseases and protecting public health.” Weakening vaccine recommendations contradicts this overwhelming consensus and leaves children exposed to preventable disease.

The risks extend beyond health. Disease outbreaks carry enormous economic costs: parents forced to miss work, schools and child care centers shuttered, and hospitals overwhelmed by preventable surges. The 2019 measles outbreak alone cost state and local governments millions of dollars in emergency response and lost productivity. Vaccination is not just lifesaving — it is one of the most cost-effective investments we can make in our nation's health and economy.

As Members of Congress, we are deeply concerned that changes of this magnitude are being advanced without robust scientific justification. Such actions would not only endanger individual children but also erode herd immunity, placing newborns, cancer patients, and others who cannot be vaccinated at grave risk.

We strongly urge you to reject any recommendations that are not grounded in evidence, reaffirm the Department's commitment to the established childhood vaccine schedule, and ensure continued insurance

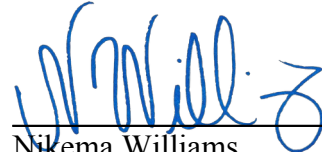
coverage and access to recommended vaccines. Public health decisions must be guided by science, not ideology.

Vaccines have saved millions of lives and remain a cornerstone of modern medicine. We cannot afford to reverse course.

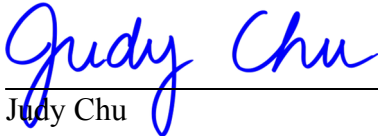
Sincerely,



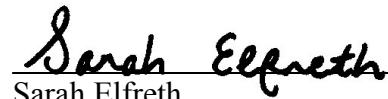
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



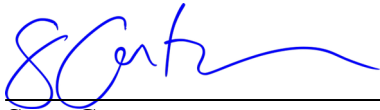
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



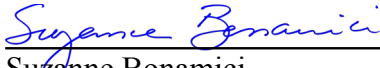
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



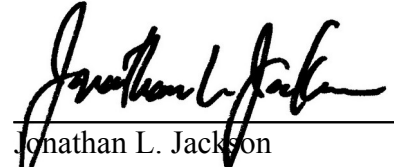
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress (OH-03)



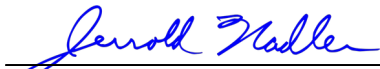
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



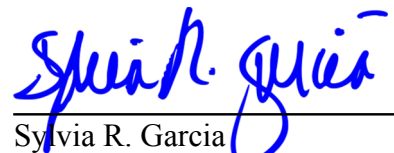
Ferrol Nadler
Member of Congress



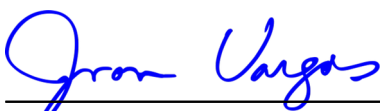
Bill Foster
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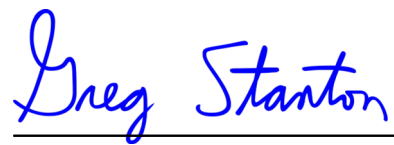
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



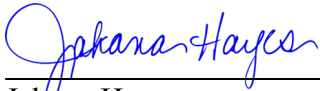
Sylvia R. Garcia
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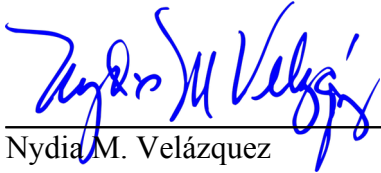
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



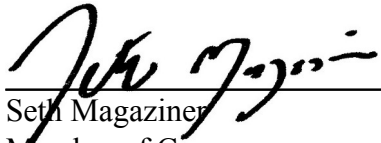
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



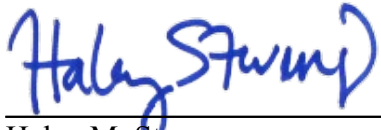
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



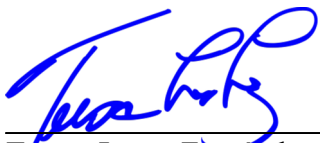
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



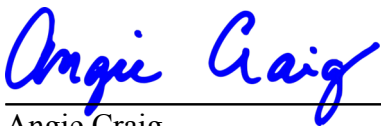
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



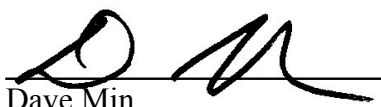
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Dave Min
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Dan Goldman
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Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
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Mike Thompson
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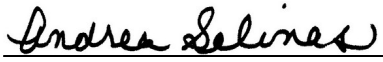
SETH MOULTON
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