

Public Comment for the June 25-27, 2025, CDC ACIP Committee Meeting

To RFK Jr. and Members of the CDC ACIP committee:

I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

I am writing to express how deeply disturbed I am by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s decision to terminate all 17 members of the CDC ACIP committee, as announced on June 9, 2025. In the medical and scientific fields, expertise that is independent from financial conflicts of interest is essential to maintaining safe, effective, and accessible treatment and prevention. The former members of the ACIP committee are independent expert scientists and clinicians who play a crucial role in providing their understanding of the safety and efficacy of FDA-approved and authorized vaccines while also guiding insurance coverage and coverage for uninsured children through the Vaccines for Children program. With vaccination rates for many infectious diseases including measles, pertussis and COVID declining, too many communities across the US are already seeing the negative long term health consequences that could have been prevented with access to vaccines. It is my firm belief that having access to a COVID booster several months before I experienced a COVID infection actively prevented me from experiencing the well-documented effects of so-called "Long-COVID." Getting the vaccine also lessened the severity

of my infection and enabled me to recover more quickly. Most importantly, having the vaccine made it safer for me to be an active part of my community without risking anyone's lives. Nobody, least of all children, should have to die or become disabled from infectious diseases because of a lack of access to affordable and effective vaccines. COVID vaccines must be available to everyone and not be limited to only some people.

The limitations to accessible COVID vaccines that RFK Jr., Marty Makary, and Vinay Prasad have established are harmful to the public's health. Lack of access to any vaccines will do the opposite of "Making America Healthy Again." Everyone must have regular access to updated COVID vaccines and widely available with full coverage by health insurance. The existing scientific evidence is irrefutable; in our current federal landscape which seeks to cut out unnecessary spending, conducting additional "efficacy" studies wastes precious time and resources and will only spread doubt about the well documented safety of vaccines.

I am therefore calling on this committee to eliminate the new policies that create barriers to access to COVID vaccines, limiting access for children, pregnant people, and adults under age 65. These restrictions do not follow the evidence that shows vaccines are an essential facet of public health policy. I am asking you to take action by reinstating

universal COVID vaccine recommendations for people of all ages, twice a year, for all COVID vaccine formulations. I also urge the committee to follow a transparent decision-making process that welcomes recommendations from scientific and medical experts. The closed door decisions made by FDA leadership including Vinay Prasad sets a dangerous precedent for the health of the American people, if the VRBPAC committee members are to be influenced by financial conflicts of interest. Such transparency in federal processes is a hallmark of democracy.

Thank you for your consideration.