

June 17, 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:

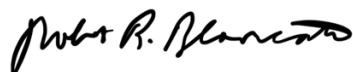
We write today with a simple but important request. As you reconstitute the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), we urge you to appoint as the required consumer representative an individual with a distinct history of working with or on behalf of older adults.

For years this representation has been missing from ACIP despite the advancements of vaccines for older adults and increasing need for effective recommendations for their use. The National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) represent the individuals and programs who serve the older adult population (defined for this purpose as those 50 and above) and are important consumers in the vaccine space. Our work, in partnership with many other aging organizations, resulted in decisions allowing those 50 and over to have access to the most advanced vaccines for pneumonia and we are awaiting a final recommendation on RSV.

Your commitment to making America healthy again must include this population which is one of the fastest growing segments. According to the [Administration for Community Living](#), older Americans, considered for the purpose of the survey to be individuals age 65 and older, represented 17.3% of the population in the year 2022. That percentage is expected to grow to 22% by 2040. Most older Americans also have at least one chronic condition and many have multiple conditions. Yet with proper preventive tools such as vaccines, serious illness and hospitalizations can be prevented. This not only protects the health of older Americans, but it can also provide significant savings to the healthcare system.

We would be pleased to offer you suggestions on qualified individuals who could fill this role. We know the importance of ACIP and want it to continue and the addition of a consumer representative who can advocate effectively for older adults will make ACIP that much stronger and more effective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob R. Blancato".

Bob Blancato
Executive Director
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs