



June 20, 2025

Re: **Docket No. CDC-2025-0025**

Dear Members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices,

As the nation's first nonpartisan, family-led network of vaccine advocates, SAFE Communities Coalition works alongside healthcare providers, scientists, nonprofits, industry partners, and policymakers to advance pro-vaccine policies across the country.

With 11 state-based Families for Vaccines chapters, we are a growing network of parents, caregivers, and public health advocates defending strong vaccine laws, countering disinformation, and ensuring every family is protected from vaccine-preventable disease. Our unique perspective centers the voices of families put at risk or impacted by outbreaks, bringing their stories into critical policy discussions and helping translate evidence into action. We offer a public voice that complements clinical and scientific expertise—grounding vaccine policy in both lived experience and public health principles.

We have long appreciated, counted on, and respected the work of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and its working groups. As the only advisory body in the United States responsible for making evidence-based vaccine recommendations, ACIP plays a critical role in protecting public health. Its members—independent experts in immunology, epidemiology, and public health—have traditionally undergone rigorous conflict-of-interest screening, and they rely on robust comprehensive data before recommending any vaccine for public use. These recommendations form the foundation for school entry requirements, insurance coverage decisions, and clinical guidance nationwide. Undermining ACIP's work would undermine the very structure of our American immunization system.

With our nation only recently emerging from a particularly severe respiratory season—and another one just a few months away—newer vaccines coming to the market, ongoing

outbreaks of once-eliminated diseases, and the upcoming review of the meningococcal vaccine platform, we recognize and deeply appreciate the urgency of your work.

To strengthen public health and preserve trust in our national immunization system, we urge the committee to take the following steps:

- **Reject efforts to politicize or undermine the independence of ACIP**, which must remain a science-driven advisory body free from political interference.
- **Reaffirm Congressional support for ACIP's evidence-based role** in shaping national immunization policy.
- **Ensure that federal agencies uphold and implement ACIP recommendations** in the CDC's immunization schedules and public health programs, especially for high-risk and underserved populations.
- **Invest in communication efforts that promote vaccines recommended by ACIP** and actively counter misinformation that threatens vaccine confidence.
- **Oppose legislative proposals that would erode adherence to ACIP's guidance**, which is foundational to equitable access and consistent vaccine policy nationwide.

It is our shared responsibility to uphold science, protect public trust, and ensure every American is safeguarded from diseases that once devastated communities. Anything less would be a disservice to the health and wellbeing of this great nation.

We appreciate your commitment to evidence-based policy and your ongoing efforts to protect the health of all Americans, and we stand ready to serve as a resource to the committee moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Northe Saunders
Executive Director
SAFE Communities Coalition