

Comments to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

June 25-27, 2025

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The National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments for the June 25-27, 2025 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting. NMQF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit research and advocacy organization based in Washington, DC. Since 1998, NMQF has been deeply committed to eliminating premature death and preventable illness among vulnerable and underserved populations by leveraging research, data analytics, education, and policy advocacy. We believe it is critical that health policies and practices align with evidence-based science built on the Physical Laws Framework (PLF) – healthcare systems working with rather than against the body's inherent capacity for healing, leading to more effective care for all communities. Furthermore, we believe that authentic patient and community input is an essential component of health care policymaking. Community engagement and the PLF will ensure that health policies build trust in our citizens and are guided by the goal of improving health care outcomes for all, rather than being driven by cost-cutting and corporate profits.

We believe that 1) vaccines represent one of the clearest cases for evidence-based medicine, and 2) ACIP can provide a mechanism for publicly transparent and patient-informed vaccine policy, resulting in evidence based clinical guidance and access, shaping everything from the

Vaccine for Children (VFC) program to coverage decisions by public and private health insurance plans.

It is undeniable that vaccines are among the most significant public health achievements in history. Continued advances promise even more protection of patients from not only infectious diseases but such diseases as lupus, dementia, and cancers.

It is equally undeniable that people of color and rural poor populations continue to have lower vaccination rates resulting in more sickness, hospitalization and death. Vaccine confidence has been shaken among these vulnerable populations, with misinformation often targeted at underserved individuals and systematic neglect displayed by systems of care.

We are troubled about the current state of vaccine policy making and communication. Specifically, we are very concerned about the abrupt dismissal of the entire membership of the ACIP, and quick replacement with other individuals, some of whom have been reported to be biased against vaccines. The role of the ACIP is too important: their recommendations play a critical role in how clinicians practice medicine, public and private health insurance programs provide coverage, and the public comes to understand vaccines. In our recent survey of a network of church communities with whom we work to promote health – the Faith Health Alliance – ACIP guidance was cited as one of the most trusted sources of information.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with you on improving vaccine science and recommendations. We strongly urge you to include public health, clinical, and vaccine experts along with patient representatives to form ACIP policy and protect access to vaccines for all people who can benefit from their use.