

Docket: CDC-2025-0024

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

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

My name is Josh Line, and I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

I'm writing to express deep concern over the dismissal of all 17 members of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), as announced by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on June 9. These experts—scientists and clinicians—played a vital role in interpreting rigorous, peer-reviewed evidence on vaccine safety and efficacy. Their guidance directly impacts vaccine access, including through the Vaccines for Children program, and influences broader public health outcomes across the United States.

This decision comes at a time when vaccination rates for preventable diseases such as measles, pertussis, and COVID-19 are already unacceptably low in many communities. Children in 2025 should not be facing disability or death from diseases we have long been able to prevent. Gutting the ACIP undercuts the very systems designed to protect the most vulnerable among us.

I am especially troubled by recent policies promoted by RFK Jr., Dr. Marty Makary, and Dr. Vinay Prasad that restrict access to COVID-19 vaccination. These measures introduce harmful barriers, particularly for children, pregnant individuals, and adults under 65—groups that remain at risk. Scientific consensus is clear: timely COVID vaccination reduces the risk of symptomatic illness, long-term complications, hospitalization, and death. Further delays in access or recommendations based on unfounded skepticism erode public trust and place lives at risk.

This committee has a responsibility to ensure that vaccine policies reflect the best available science and are developed through a transparent, inclusive process. Recent actions—like bypassing the VRBPAC during flu vaccine strain selection and silencing advisory committee input—are alarming. Decisions affecting national health policy must never occur behind closed doors or under political influence.

I urge this committee to reinstate universal COVID vaccine recommendations—accessible to all age groups, at least twice per year, across all formulations—and to restore the integrity of both the ACIP and VRBPAC processes. Public health policy must be grounded in data, not driven by ideology.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Josh Line