

Docket: CDC-2025-0024

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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.

Today, I am writing to express grave concerns about the recent termination of all 17 members of the CDC ACIP committee announced on June 9 by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. These former members have an essential role as independent expert scientists or clinicians on the ACIP committee with 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. Currently, vaccination rates for many infectious diseases are low, and numerous communities across the US are directly affected by outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, including measles, pertussis, and COVID-19. Many of these infections can cause serious and potentially lifelong consequences on their health. Children in 2025 should not die or become disabled from infectious diseases because of a lack of access to affordable and effective vaccines.

RFK Jr., Marty Makary, and Vinay Prasad have recently established policies that limit access to COVID vaccinations. Creating such barriers is harmful to the public's health. Everyone must have regular access to updated COVID vaccines, which should be widely available with full coverage by health insurance. The scientific evidence is irrefutable, and it is a waste of precious resources and time to conduct additional efficacy studies, which would only serve to sow doubt about the efficacy of vaccines. Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine within the last year reduces the risk of symptoms, severe disease, disability, and death for people of all ages, including previously healthy people. The new policies create barriers to accessing COVID-19 vaccines, limiting access for children, pregnant individuals, and adults under the age of 65. These restrictions also create considerable confusion among the public regarding the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. I ask you to act, follow the evidence, and reinstate universal COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for people of all ages, administered twice a year, for all COVID-19 vaccine formulations.

Any changes to vaccine-related policies require a science- and evidence-based approach, entailing an open and transparent process. Similarly, at the FDA, the VRBPAC committee members faced undue influence from the leadership of the FDA, including Vinay Prasad. He decided for the VRBPAC committee before they had a chance to consider and share vaccine recommendations. This also occurred with the selection of the influenza vaccine strain, which took place in a closed-door meeting without recommendations from the FDA VRBPAC committee members and without providing an opportunity for public consideration or comment. I urge this committee to ensure that all vaccine policy

decisions are made, considered, evaluated, and concluded through open and transparent processes, all of which are hallmarks of democracy.

Thank you for your consideration.