

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

I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

I am writing today as both a physician and a parent to express deep concern over the June 9 announcement by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., terminating all 17 members of the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). These individuals serve a critical role as independent experts guiding the safe and effective use of FDA-approved and authorized vaccines. Their recommendations directly inform insurance coverage policies and the Vaccines for Children program—resources that ensure life-saving vaccines remain accessible to all, especially our most vulnerable populations.

As a parent, I've witnessed firsthand how vaccines have kept my children safe and healthy, sparing them from diseases that once caused widespread harm. As a physician, I've seen the powerful impact of vaccines in preventing severe illness, disability, and death in my patients. And as a public health advocate, I recognize that vaccines are one of the most effective tools we have to protect entire communities.

Unfortunately, vaccine coverage in many parts of the U.S. is dangerously low, and we are already seeing the consequences. Outbreaks of measles, pertussis, and COVID-19 are once again threatening the health of our children and communities. In 2025, it is unacceptable that anyone—especially a child—should suffer or die from a vaccine-preventable illness due to misinformation, inaccessibility, or lack of political will.

The recent policies championed by RFK Jr., Dr. Marty Makary, and Dr. Vinay Prasad have created alarming new barriers to accessing COVID-19 vaccines. These policies restrict access for children, pregnant individuals, and adults under 65, despite overwhelming evidence that updated COVID vaccines reduce the risk of symptoms, severe disease, long-term complications, and death across all age groups. The call for additional efficacy studies is not grounded in scientific necessity—it only delays protection and fuels public doubt.

We urge you to take swift and evidence-based action to:

1. Reinstate the ACIP members or ensure replacement by equally independent experts;
2. Restore universal COVID-19 vaccine recommendations, with twice-yearly eligibility for all age groups;
3. Ensure COVID-19 vaccines remain widely accessible and fully covered by insurance;
4. Uphold open and transparent processes for all vaccine-related decisions, including at the FDA and VRBPAC, to maintain public trust and scientific integrity.

Democratic societies rely on transparency, science, and expertise—especially when it comes to public health. I implore this committee to ensure that vaccine policies remain rooted in evidence, insulated from political interference, and guided by the very experts we depend on to safeguard the nation's health.

Thank you for your consideration.