

I am deeply concerned by Secretary Kennedy's recent removal of all 17 ACIP members. The consequences of this decision will fall hardest on those least able to protect themselves—our children and adolescents. This action has created significant uncertainty about how future vaccine recommendations will be made and threatens to further diminish public trust in immunizations.

My daughter Lindsay succumbed to Meningococcal Meningitis Serotype B (Meningitis B) nearly 35 years ago, long before a vaccine was available to prevent this horrific disease. Her death occurred in less than 24 hours - specifically within 12 hours from first symptoms. I have never fully recovered from the loss of my daughter, however albeit bittersweet, I received solace and hope when the MenB vaccine (in addition to the vaccines for Serotypes A,C, W, Y) were developed and made available to the public. Indeed, although too late for my own daughter, these vaccines could save other families from this tremendous and lifelong heartache.

Each time I now see news of a child dying from Meningococcal Meningitis, my heart breaks all over again. An unacceptably low MenB vaccine uptake rate exists —just 13% of eligible adolescents have completed the MenB vaccine series, compared to over 90% for MenACWY. [Source](#). And this is even more tragic in that since 2011, 100% of all college meningococcal outbreaks in the U.S. have been caused by MenB. [Source](#)

I implore you to strengthen meningococcal prevention in the United States. I strongly urge 1) the administration to clarify how the ACIP will be reconstituted, including how recently announced members have been selected, and to provide clear assurance that the ACIP will continue to be guided by science, transparency, and meaningful public input; and 2) that new members become informed on the critical issues affecting meningococcal meningitis in the U.S. today and why immediate action is needed.

With concern,
Kristen Aldretti