

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 interests to disclose. I am a concerned American and friend to so many beloved elderly folks, children, and others with health vulnerabilities.

Today, I am regrettably facing a future where vaccine access might be in danger. The recent termination of all 17 members of the CDC ACIP committee announced on June 9 by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr is unacceptable. These former members have an important role as independent expert clinicians and scientists on the ACIP committee, providing their understanding of the safety and efficacy of FDA-approved and authorized vaccines while also influencing insurance coverage and coverage for uninsured children through the Vaccines for Children program. It saddens me that vaccination rates for many infectious diseases are very low, and communities across the US are directly affected by outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases such as measles, pertussis, and COVID. These illnesses are not just concerns during the acute phase, they can also cause serious and potentially lifelong consequences. No child should 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. As COVID infections continue to harm public health, scientific evidence clearly indicates that vaccines remain one of the most important technologies for addressing SARS-CoV-2, and preventing long term damage from the virus. Universal access to updated COVID vaccines is essential to address the ongoing variants. Changes in the virus are as much a problem today, as they were in 2020 and 2021. The new policies create barriers to accessing COVID vaccines, limiting access for children, pregnant people, and adults under age 65. These restrictions also create immense confusion among the public on the usefulness of COVID vaccines. We ask you to follow the evidence, which clearly shows vaccines should be recommended for individuals of all ages and be fully covered by public funds/or insurance at a regular interval of at least every six months.

Any changes to vaccine-related policies require an evidence-based approach with a transparent process. Similarly, theVRBPAC committee members at the FDA were faced with undue influence by the leadership of the FDA including Vinay Prasad. He made a decision for the VRBPAC committee before they had a chance to consider and share vaccine recommendations. This also happened with the Influenza vaccine

strain selection, which occurred in a closed-door meeting without recommendations from the FDA VRBPAC committee members, and no opportunity for public consideration or comment. I beseech this committee to take action ensuring that all vaccine policy decisions are considered, evaluated, and concluded using open and transparent processes, all of which are hallmarks of democracy. Democracy, including that which pertains to the health and safety of America's people, are of chief concern.

Thank you for your consideration.