

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

For over 60 years, in both Republican and Democratic Administrations, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has played a pivotal role in keeping Americans healthy and safe. As Members of Congress, we are outraged at your decision to unilaterally remove all 17 individuals from ACIP on June 9th. As Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), your duty to this country is to enhance the well-being of all Americans and this decision will cost lives. Your decision to disband the ACIP, a committee of medical and public health experts whose sole focus is to develop vaccine recommendations, completely undermines ACIP's critical role and endangers this nation's public health.

On June 9th, in your opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal, you blame conflict of interests and a lack of curiosity as a rationale for removing this panel of experts from their roles.¹ Your statement belies the rigorous vetting process for ACIP members, including financial disclosures and a review of their previous work on clinical trials. ACIP members must recuse themselves from votes and discussions on vaccines they are studying, or on any other vaccines manufactured by companies that fund their research.² In fact, just this year the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention set up a public, searchable database allowing transparency for any conflicts of interest for voting ACIP members dating back to 2000.


These actions upend ACIP's thoughtful, evidence-based decision-making and will weave unfounded or disproven theories into what has traditionally been a science-based process trusted by our health care providers. Conducting immunization reviews takes months of deliberation and review of research, and your unilateral decision to abruptly end ACIP's existing work is detrimental. It has become abundantly clear that your intent is to sow doubt and fear in the American public that will cost lives. With an ongoing measles outbreak and the decline of routine child immunizations, we will see the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases across the country. Your politicization of vaccines has made American families less safe and will return the US to an era before mass vaccination prevented millions of infections and early deaths.

We demand that you reinstate the fired 17 members to ACIP and uphold your oath to the American people.

Sincerely,

¹ [RFK Jr.: HHS Moves to Restore Public Trust in Vaccines - WSJ](#)

² [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, Policies and Procedures June 2022](#)



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Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



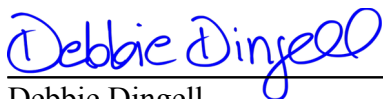
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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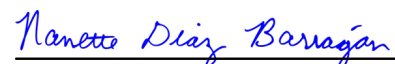
Debbie Dingell
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Marc A. Veasey
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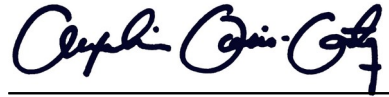
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



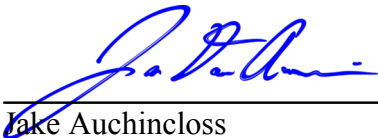
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



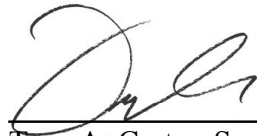
Lizzie Fletcher
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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Jake Auchincloss
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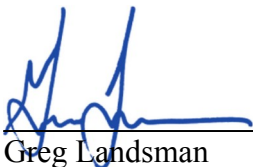
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
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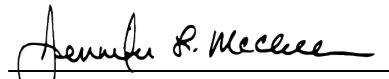
Robert J. Menendez
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Kevin Mullin
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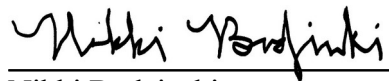
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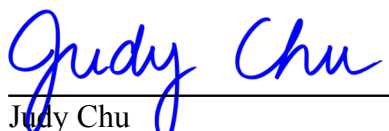
Maxine Dexter
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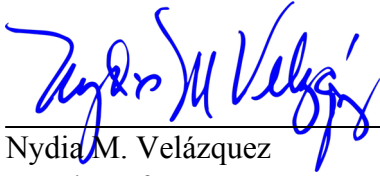
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Judy Chu
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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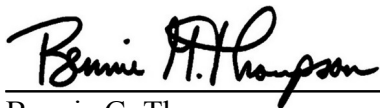
Ritchie Torres
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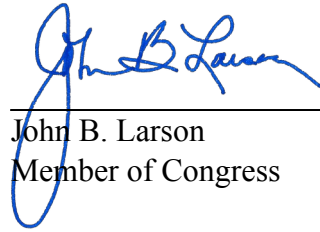
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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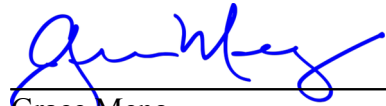
Bennie G. Thompson
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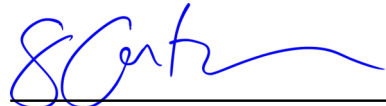
Emanuel Cleaver, II
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John B. Larson
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Sean Casten
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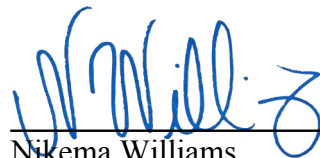
Frederica S. Wilson
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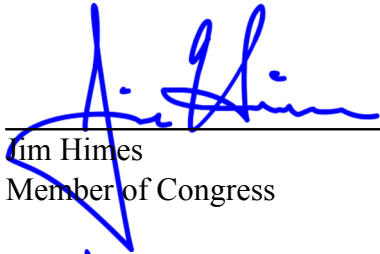
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Jim Himes
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Jim Costa
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Becca Balint
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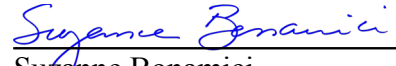
Bill Foster
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Rashida Tlaib
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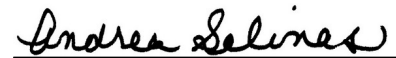
Melanie Stansbury
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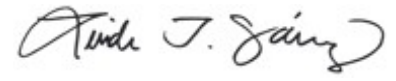
Suzanne Bonamici
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John W. Mannion
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Andrea Salinas
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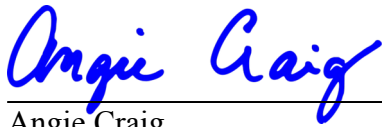
Linda T. Sánchez
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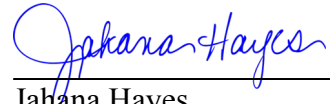
Rick Larsen
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Angie Craig
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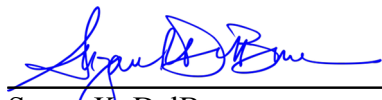
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Dina Titus
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Ami Bera, M.D.
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Maggie Goodlander
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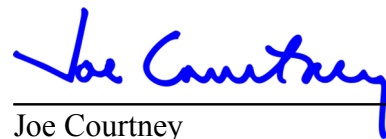
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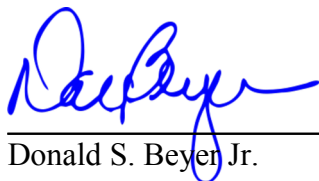
Robert Garcia
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Julie Johnson
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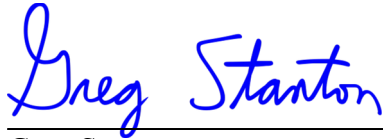
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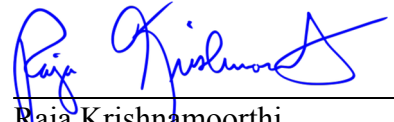
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Chellie Pingree
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Greg Stanton
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
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Mark DeSaulnier
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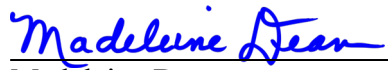
Marilyn Strickland
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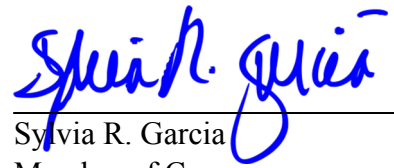
Jim Tokuda
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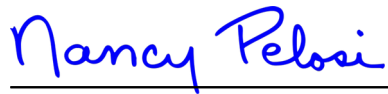
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Nancy Pelosi
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