

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 8, 2025

Acting Director Susan Monarez  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Acting Director Monarez,

We write to you regarding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plan to study potential connections between vaccines and autism spectrum disorders (ASD). We believe in upholding the highest standards of safety and efficacy for all drugs, medical devices, and biologics. While sound scientific research should never be discouraged, the simple truth is that we already know the answer to this question. A robust review of the literature, from studies all around the world, shows no correlation between ASD and vaccines. The percent of children with autism spectrum disorders is the *same* in vaccinated and non-vaccinated populations.

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act, passed in 1986, required the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to assess concerns about the safety of vaccines, especially in children. In doing so, HHS, in collaboration with the Institute of Medicine, published the *Adverse Effects of Vaccines* in 2011. This publication reviewed the breadth of epidemiological, clinical, and biological evidence regarding adverse health events associated with specific vaccines covered by the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program<sup>1</sup>. The comprehensive report found no association between vaccination and ASD.

In the midst of a deadly measles outbreak funding yet another study to examine settled science is not only wasteful, it's reckless. Announcing that you are conducting this research under the direction of David Geier, who has published numerous faulty articles attempting to link vaccines and autism and who has been sanctioned for practicing medicine without a license, suggests that you do not trust in the dozens of scientific studies already done around the world<sup>2,3,4,5,6,7,8</sup> - all yielding the same result that vaccines are not associated with the development of ASD. This makes parents wonder if *they* should trust these studies, resulting in some parents not vaccinating their children. We are seeing the consequences of vaccine hesitancy right now in Texas and beyond.

As the CDC rightfully notes, the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is safe and effective<sup>9</sup>, and it has been for over 50 years. Vaccinations prevent measles and many other infectious diseases. They have saved millions of lives and prevented tremendous suffering. In the wake of terminations and budget cuts to medical

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<sup>1</sup> Adverse Effects of Vaccines: Evidence and Causality <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/24624471/>

<sup>2</sup> Autism Occurrence by MMR Vaccine Status Among US Children With Older Siblings With and Without Autism <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2275444>

<sup>3</sup> Vaccines are not associated with autism: An evidence-based meta-analysis of case-control and cohort studies [https://kettlemag.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/meta-analysis\\_vaccin\\_autism\\_2014.pdf](https://kettlemag.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/meta-analysis_vaccin_autism_2014.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Increasing Exposure to Antibody-Stimulating Proteins and Polysaccharides in Vaccines Is Not Associated with Risk of Autism [https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476\(13\)00144-3/fulltext](https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476(13)00144-3/fulltext)

<sup>5</sup> The MMR Vaccine and Autism <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6768751/>

<sup>6</sup> Immunization Safety Review: Vaccines and Autism <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK25349/#a2000af8fddd00068>

<sup>7</sup> Association Between Thimerosal-Containing Vaccine and Autism <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/197365>

<sup>8</sup> A population-based study of measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination and autism <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12421889/>

<sup>9</sup> Questions About Measles <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/questions.html>

research, public health, and pandemic preparedness, our health agencies should focus their limited personnel and resources on current threats facing our nation and the world.

As members of Congress, we would like written responses to the following questions by May 1st, 2025:

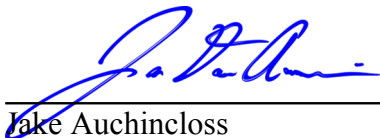
1. Have you reviewed the previously conducted research?
2. If a concern with the methodology and integrity of those studies is raised, what is that concern and how does a new study methodology differ?
3. HHS continues to drastically reduce its workforce, including at CDC and in ASPE. If you choose to proceed with further research on the topic of vaccines and ASDs, what is the budget for this project and how many staff do you anticipate needing to work on it? How long do you expect the research to take, and when can Congress expect to be briefed on the results?
4. In the interim, does the CDC plan to recommend any changes to current US vaccine programs, recommendations, guidelines, or policy?
5. What other plans does HHS have to support individuals on the autism spectrum and their families?

Sincerely,



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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



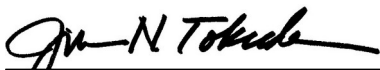
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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



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JM Tokuda  
Member of Congress



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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



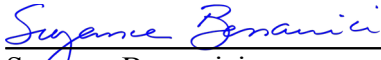
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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



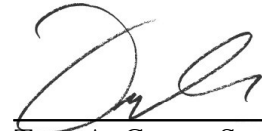
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Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



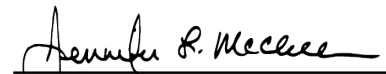
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



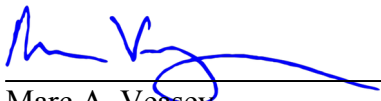
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Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



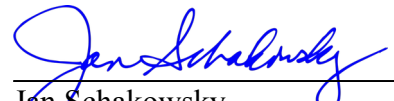
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



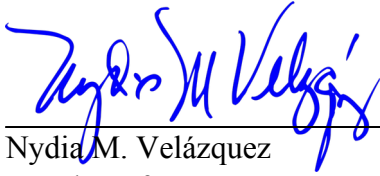
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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress




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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



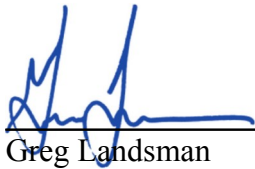
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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



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Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

CC:

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services