

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 4, 2025

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

Secretary Kennedy:

As physicians and Members of Congress, we have a duty to protect the health and safety of the American people. During your confirmation hearings, you committed to following the science on vaccines. Yet in the months since, your actions have repeatedly undermined that pledge despite opposition from the scientific and medical community. This culminated last week in the firing of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Susan Monarez for defending evidence-based vaccine standards. The reckless decisions you are making threaten American lives and public trust. We call on you to resign.

The ousting of Director Monarez is just the latest example of your harmful leadership. Despite her credentials and long record of public service, she was terminated for refusing to choose a political agenda over the health of the American people. In the wake of this reckless decision, four top CDC leaders resigned including its Chief Medical Officer; the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD); the director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID); and the director of the Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance and Technology. The loss of their expertise and decades of experience undermines public trust. There also remains a deep concern in what led to these departures. You never once requested briefings from the NCIRD or NCEZID directors before implementing major changes to vaccine policy. These leaders have cited that the CDC is being used to create policies unsupported by current science and without input from subject matter experts. Leaders of these critical offices cannot — and should not — be expected to carry out an agenda at the expense of the health and safety of the American people. Demanding that they do so is not only irresponsible, it is dangerous.

Your leadership at HHS has followed an escalating pattern of eroding scientific integrity and undermining established, evidence-based recommendations and policy. Earlier this year, you fired every member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)— long regarded as the gold standard for vaccine policy— and replaced them with vaccine skeptics, without any review of conflicts of interest or credentials. This move compromised the scientific integrity of a trusted and historically independent body. The subsequent announcement that ACIP will review the childhood immunization schedule is particularly concerning. The recent questioning of the hepatitis B vaccine and the practice of vaccinating newborns highlights the danger of this decision. Undermining decades of work that has been validated by the scientific community is unacceptable.

Just this week, you issued an opinion piece claiming that trust in the CDC is being restored. In reality, your actions directly contradict your own claim. Rather than ensuring that CDC employees can carry out their mission free from political interference, your leadership has undermined their ability to do so. From cutting funding for promising mRNA vaccine development to issuing guidance not grounded in scientific data or expert input, your decisions are eroding public trust and putting lives at risk. You have failed to uphold your promise to follow the science.

As physicians and Members of Congress, we are deeply concerned that your tenure at HHS undermines the core mission of the Department: to protect and promote the health of the American people. Your actions have not only eroded public trust but have actively endangered lives. We demand your resignation to safeguard the health and safety of our communities.

Sincerely,



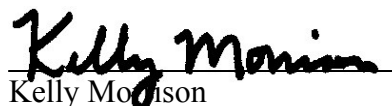
---

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



---

Maxine Dexter, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.  
Member of Congress