

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 7, 2026

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,

As Members of Congress, we are outraged at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) decision to endanger children and families by undermining the established science-driven and expertly considered U.S. childhood immunization schedule. As Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), your duty to this country is to enhance the well-being of all Americans, and yet this decision will put Americans at unnecessary risk of illness and cost lives. Multiple unvaccinated children have died from vaccine-preventable diseases like measles and pertussis in the last year, and the 2025-2026 flu season is on track to be one of the worst in decades, already taking the lives of 9 children.<sup>12</sup>

Vaccines are rigorously tested and monitored for safety, and there is robust scientific evidence showing that they save millions of lives each year—especially the lives of children. CDC's previous immunization schedule was the result of a methodical, evidence-based scientific process and protected millions of children from seventeen serious and sometimes deadly diseases.

The newly announced immunization schedule reduces the number of universally recommended vaccines from seventeen to eleven—stripping life-saving recommendations for immunization against influenza, rotavirus, COVID-19, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and meningococcal disease.<sup>3</sup> The American Academy of Pediatrics continues to recommend that all children receive these vaccines.<sup>4</sup> This updated schedule and its justifications are based in ideology rather than science and are intended to sow further doubt and confusion about vaccines. This announcement leaves parents with inconsistent, muddled advice, further stoking unfounded fears about vaccine safety—despite the overwhelming evidence of the benefits of universal immunization.

Immunizations have been proven, time and time again, to be safe and effective. Pediatricians already spend time talking with parents about why vaccinations are important to the health and well-being of their children and answering questions. Your updated immunization schedule undermines those conversations and pediatric recommendations. A decrease in childhood immunizations will result in increased pediatrician and emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and deaths. It is especially egregious to do this after this administration slashed Medicaid, health insurance that nearly half the children in this country rely on.

Your agency's decision to overhaul decades of evidence-based science is arbitrary and driven by ideology. This announcement completely bypasses the recommendations made by the previously esteemed Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a panel that you have replaced with your own hand-picked members, most of whom have long track records of anti-vaccine activism. For credibility, the ACIP must

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/fluview/surveillance/2025-week-52.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/data-research/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/decision-memo-adopting-revised-childhood-adolescent-immunization-schedule.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://publications.aap.org/redbook/resources/15585/AAP-Immunization-Schedule?autologincheck=redirected>

discuss their recommendations transparently and publicly. Additionally, this decision was made without any substantive input from scientific experts like infectious disease specialists, epidemiologists, and pediatricians.

American children and their families deserve robust evidence-based immunization recommendations that are rooted in science. As the Secretary of Health and Human Services, your continued mission to delegitimize vaccines is antithetical to the oath you pledged to keep Americans healthy. Your politicization of vaccines makes American families less safe, returns the U.S. to an era before routine vaccination prevented millions of infections, and is already resulting in unnecessary suffering and preventable deaths, particularly among children.

We demand that you reinstate the previous childhood immunization schedule, restore sanctity to the ACIP, and protect the health and wellbeing of children.

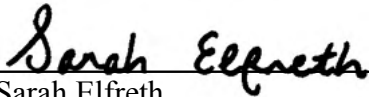
Sincerely,

Sincerely,



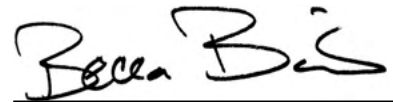
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Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Sarah Elfreth  
Member of Congress



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Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



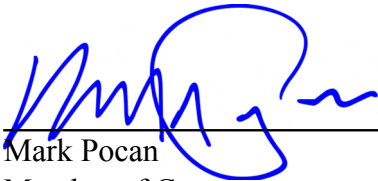
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Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



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Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress

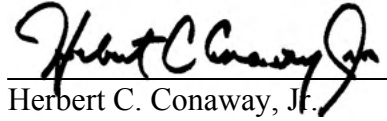


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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



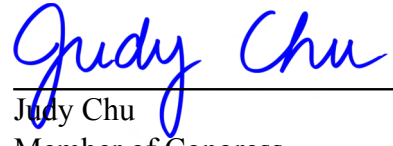
Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.  
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
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Judy Chu  
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
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Lori Trahan  
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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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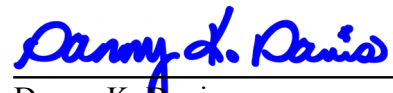
Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
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Rashida Tlaib  
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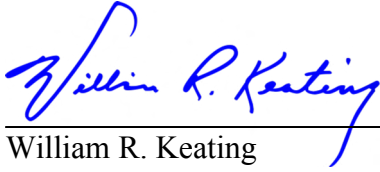
Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



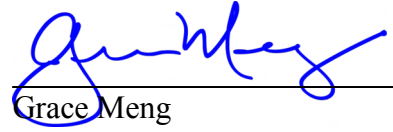
Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



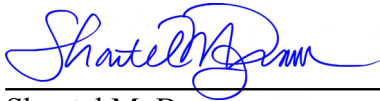
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



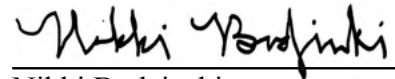
William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



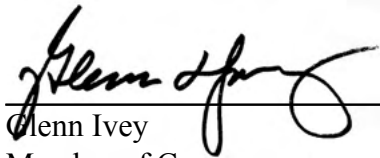
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



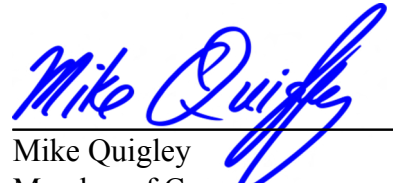
Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



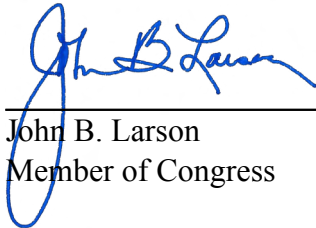
Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



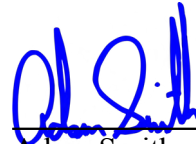
Glenn Ivey  
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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



John B. Larson  
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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



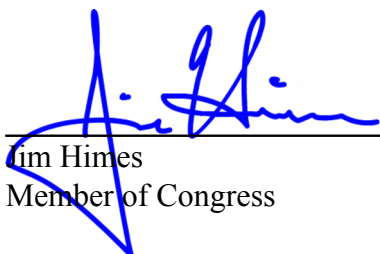
Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



Jim Himes  
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss  
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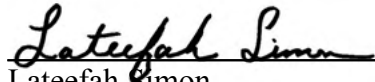
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Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



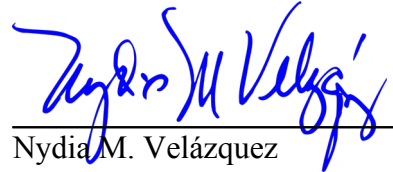
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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



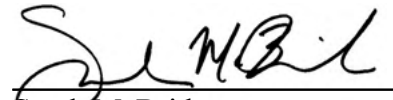
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



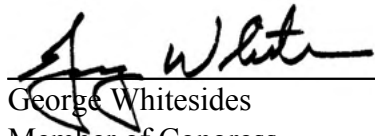
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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



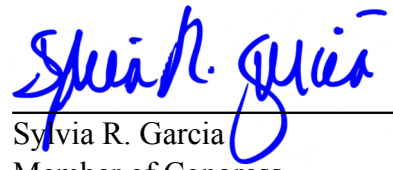
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Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



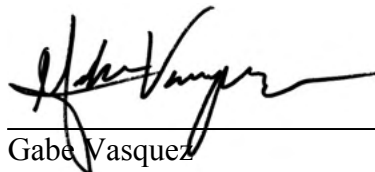
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George Whitesides  
Member of Congress



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Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Gabe Vasquez  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



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Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



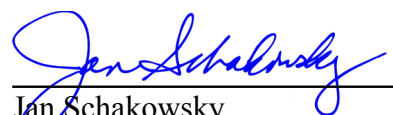
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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



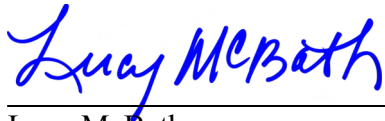
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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



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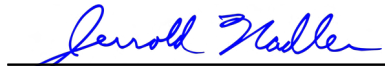
Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress




Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



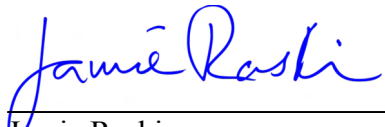
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



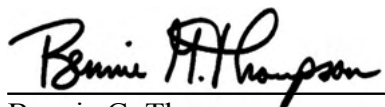
Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



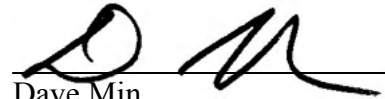
Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
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Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



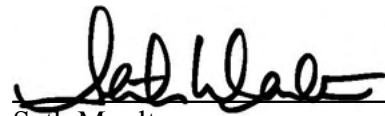
Dave Min  
Member of Congress




Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



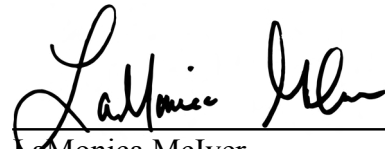
Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



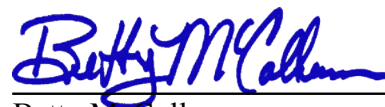
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



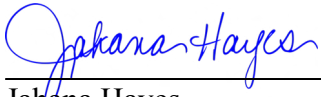
Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



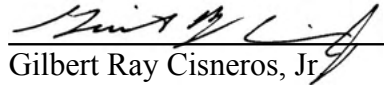
Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



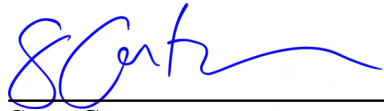
Summer L. Lee  
Member of Congress



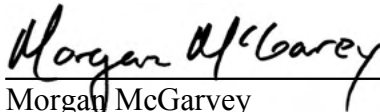
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey  
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Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



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Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



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George Latimer  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



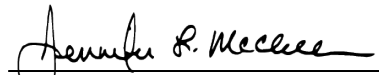
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Al Green  
Member of Congress




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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress



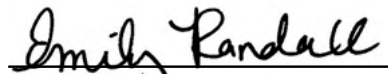
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Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



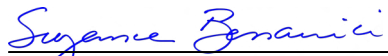
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Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



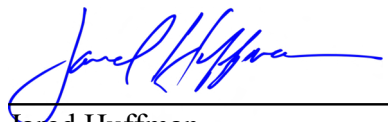
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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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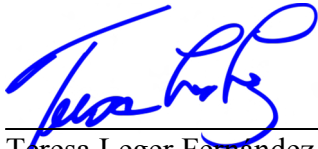
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



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Dina Titus  
Member of Congress





Teresa Leger Fernandez  
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



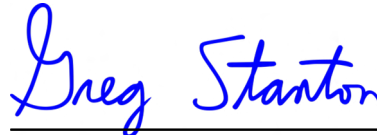
Adelita S. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



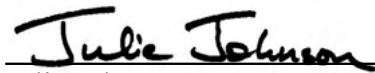
Luz M. Rivas  
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



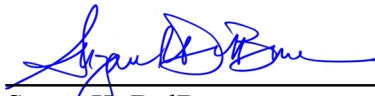
Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



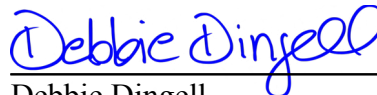
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress



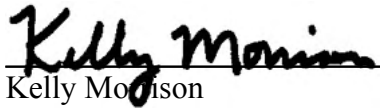
Rick Larsen  
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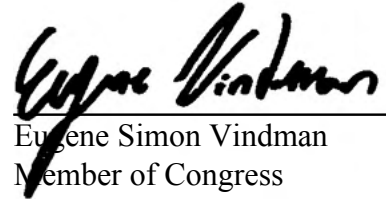
Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



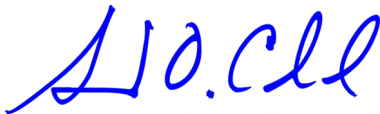
Emilia Strong Sykes  
Member of Congress



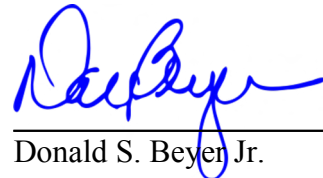
Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



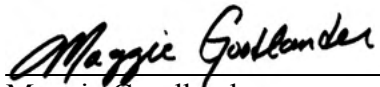
Eugene Simon Vindman  
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Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander  
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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress