

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.¹²

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.³ The American Academy of Pediatrics continues to recommend that all children receive these vaccines.⁴ 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

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

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

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

⁴ <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.

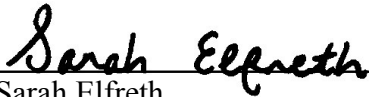
We demand that you reinstate the previous childhood immunization schedule, restore sanctity to the ACIP, and protect the health and wellbeing of children.

Sincerely,

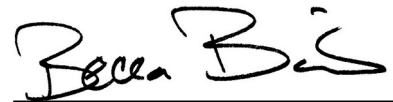
Sincerely,



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



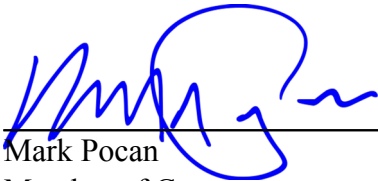
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress




Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



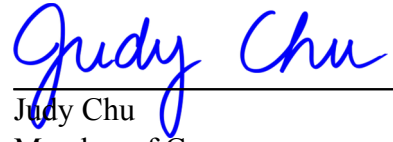
Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



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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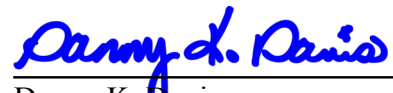
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



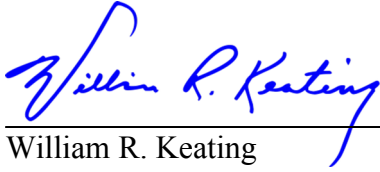
Danny K. Davis
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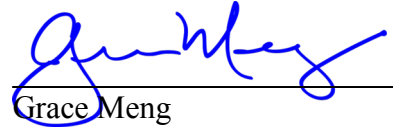
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



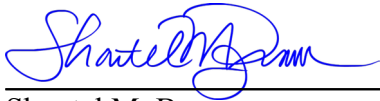
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



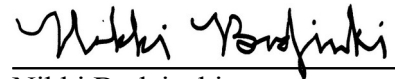
William R. Keating
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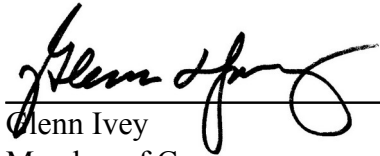
Grace Meng
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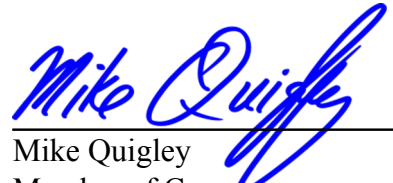
Shontel M. Brown
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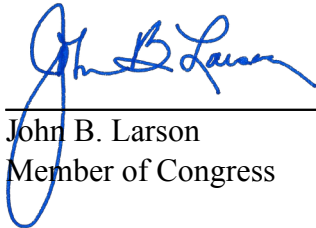
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



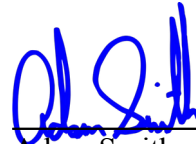
Glenn Ivey
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Mike Quigley
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John B. Larson
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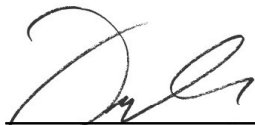
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



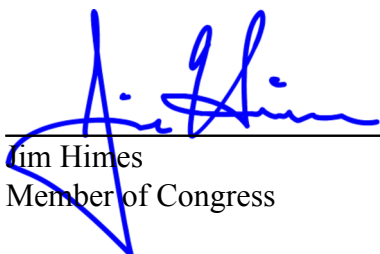
Maxine Dexter
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.
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Haley M. Stevens
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Jim Himes
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Jake Auchincloss
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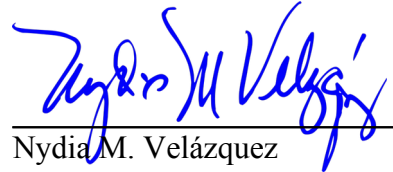
Kathy Castor
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John Garamendi
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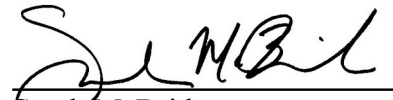
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



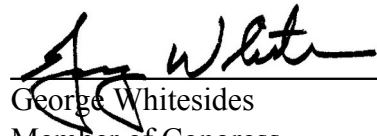
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



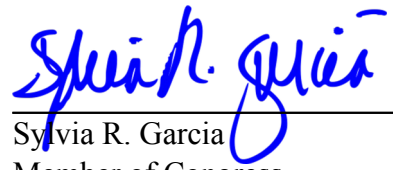
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



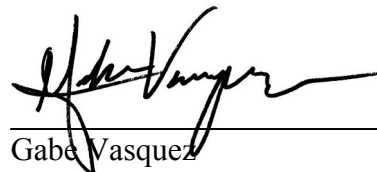
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
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Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Gabe Vasquez
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Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



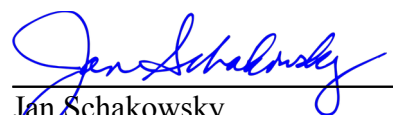
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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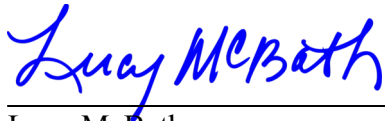
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



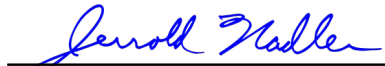
Jan Schakowsky
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Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



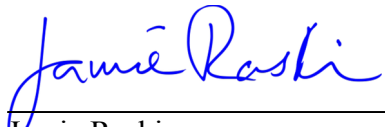
Diana DeGette
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Jerrold Nadler
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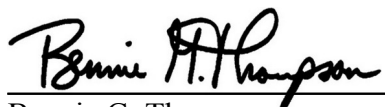
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



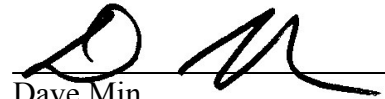
Jamie Raskin
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Robin L. Kelly
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Bennie G. Thompson
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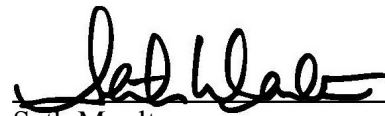
Dave Min
Member of Congress



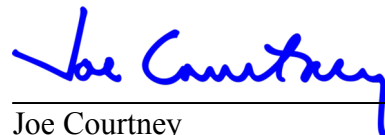
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



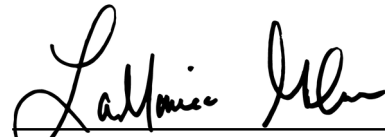
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



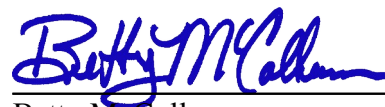
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



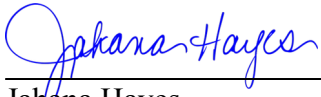
Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



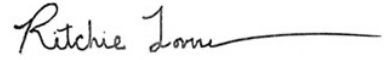
LaMonica McIver
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Betty McCollum
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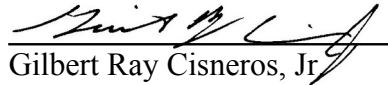
Jahana Hayes
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Ritchie Torres
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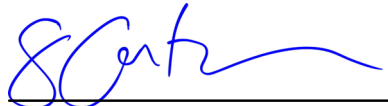
Summer L. Lee
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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
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Scott H. Peters
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Sean Casten
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Morgan McGarvey
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Paul Tonko
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Robert J. Menendez
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Chris Deluzio
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Jimmy Panetta
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Marc A. Veasey
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James P. McGovern
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Marilyn Strickland
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George Latimer
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Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



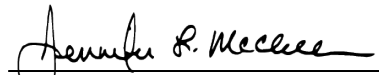
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



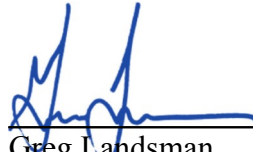
Al Green
Member of Congress



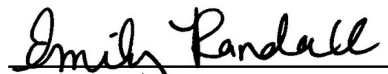
Jim Costa
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Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



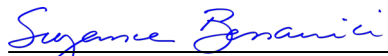
Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



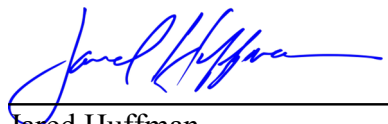
Emily Randall
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



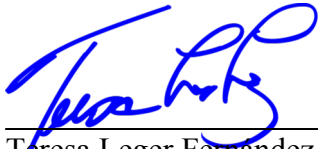
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



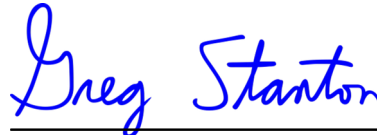
Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



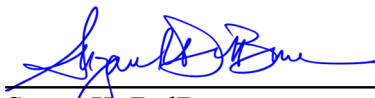
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



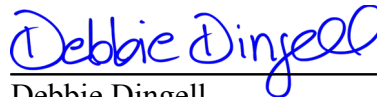
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



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



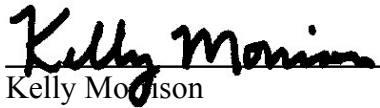
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



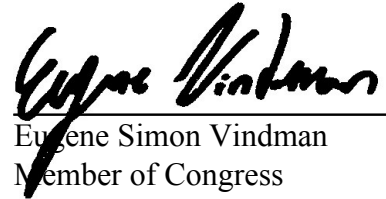
Mike Levin
Member of Congress



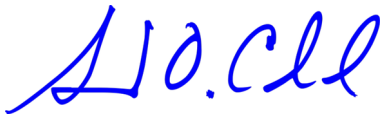
Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



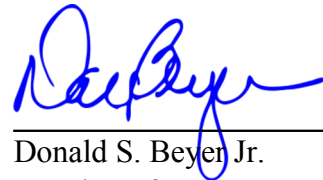
Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



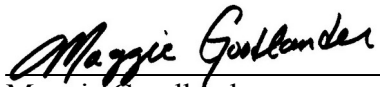
Eugene Simon Vindman
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Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress