

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 24, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

As members of the Congressional Mamas Caucus, we write today to demand your resignation as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Your reckless disregard for the health of our children, and demonstrated opposition to the scientific consensus in support of routine childhood vaccinations makes you wholly unqualified for your position.

In your position at the Department, you have taken every opportunity to sow doubt about the efficacy of time-tested vaccinations. This summer, you stripped all seventeen expert members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and replaced public health professionals on this important panel with vaccine skeptics and friends.¹ Since you made these changes to ACIP, the panel has significantly rolled back its recommendations: most notably, it has limited its support for COVID-19 vaccines only for high-risk groups, required consultation with a doctor for these vaccinations, and reversed its guidance for children to receive combined MMRV vaccines, which protect against the common childhood illnesses measles, mumps, rubella, and chicken pox.²

The impact of ACIP's reversal of course on routine vaccination is twofold: first, many public and private health insurers, including state Medicaid agencies, rely on guidance from the CDC, informed by ACIP, to determine which vaccinations will be covered for families. Notably, during its September 2025 meeting, ACIP took a step beyond guidance, voting to prohibit the Vaccines for Children program from covering the combined MMRV vaccine.³ Over half of children qualify for the Vaccines for Children program because their guardians cannot afford to pay for routine vaccinations without assistance. These changes to ACIP's recommendations will mean that the majority of American children may lose access to childhood vaccinations.

Beyond ACIP's changing recommendations hurting families' bottom line, changing recommendations, not based on scientific evidence, inject uncertainty and distrust into the public discourse around vaccination and public health more broadly. The CDC recently reported that vaccination coverage among Kindergartners has decreased across the board during the 2024-2025 school year, with vaccination for high-risk conditions like measles, mumps, rubella, and even polio hovering near 92%. Schools across the country reported reduced vaccine coverage in more than half of states, with over 280,000 kindergartens reporting to school without vaccination for measles, mumps and rubella.⁴ With conflicting information and vaccine skepticism embraced by your administration, parents do not know where to turn or who to believe, and children - both vaccinated and unvaccinated - are at risk.

¹ <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/06/09/rfk-jr-to-fire-all-members-of-the-cdcs-vaccine-advisory-committee-00395235>;
<https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-cdc-announce-new-acip-members-sept-2025.html>

² <https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/acip-recommends-covid19-vaccination-individual-decision-making.html>;
<https://apnews.com/article/cdc-vaccines-acip-hepatitis-b-chickenpox-21623ff8ead38ae1b21db488ee82a1f8>

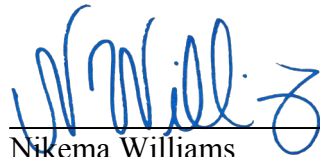
³ <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/09/19/nx-s1-5546769/cdc-vaccine-acip-hepatitis-b-covid>

⁴ https://www.cdc.gov/schoolvaxview/data/index.html#cdc_data_surveillance_section_2-new-findings-on-vaccination-coverage-and-exemptions-among-kindergartners-2024-2025-school-year

The impact of lowered vaccination rates is not theoretical. In recent months, we have seen unprecedented outbreaks of formerly rare or eradicated diseases - like measles - across the country. As of September 16, 2025, the CDC reports nearly 1500 confirmed measles cases across the 42 states. These cases are not individual – rather, 86% of confirmed cases are associated with any one of 38 outbreaks reported just this year.⁵ The communicability of measles, and other vaccine-prevented diseases, is well-established. When parents choose not to vaccinate their children, they are impacting not only their own children, but also limiting the herd immunity on which children who cannot be vaccinated rely. Providing families, pediatricians, and insurers misleading information about the safety of vaccinations has consequences - and our children have borne the brunt of your disregard for established science.

In light of your blatant disregard for children's health, your continued leadership is dangerous. For the safety of our children and trust in public health, we call on you to resign from your position as Secretary of Health and Human Services.

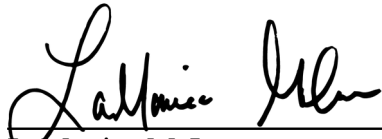
Sincerely,



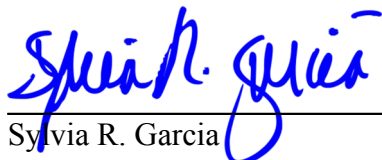
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress




Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress

⁵ https://www.cdc.gov/schoolvaxview/data/index.html#cdc_data_surveillance_section_2-new-findings-on-vaccination-coverage-and-exemptions-among-kindergartners-2024-2025-school-year


Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress