## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 28, 2025

Stephen Hemsley Chairman and CEO United Health Group 1 Health Drive Eden Prairie, MN 55344

David Joyner President and CEO CVS Health 1 CVS Drive Woodsocket, RI 02894

Greg Adams Chairman and CEO Kaiser Permanente 1 Kaiser Plaza Oakland, CA 94612

Kim Keck President and CEO Blue Cross Blue Shield Association 200 E Randolph Street Chicago IL 60601 Gail Boudreaux President and CEO Elevance Health 220 Virginia Avenue Indianapolis, IN 46204

David Cordani Chairman and CEO The Cigna Group 900 Cottage Grove Road Bloomfield, CT 06002

Maurice Smith
President and CEO
Health Care Service Corporation
300 E Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Mr. Hemsley, Ms. Broudreaux, Mr. Joyner, Mr. Cordani, Mr. Adams, Mr. Smith and Ms. Keck:

Since the enactment of the *Affordable Care Act* in 2010, insurance plans subject to preventative services requirements have been required to cover routine vaccinations, which are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of its vaccine schedule. Insurance coverage for high quality, effective vaccines without cost sharing for beneficiaries is a critical component of ensuring vaccine uptake, and protecting public health.

The ACIP consists of a panel of public health and medical experts who assess FDA-approved vaccines and make a recommendation to the CDC based on the balance of evidence as to whether new vaccines should be recommended. The ACIP has been assessing immunizations for 60 years, and convenes regularly and transparently to discuss its recommendations. The CDC and industry alike have historically followed the recommendations of ACIP because the committee is the nonpartisan gold standard voice of public health on issues of immunization.

Nonetheless, on June 1, 2025, Secretary Kennedy announced the sudden ouster of all seventeen members of ACIP, and pledged to replace them with appointees who would restore "public trust above any specific pro- or anti-vaccine agenda." This announcement, taken in the context of Secretary Kennedy's longstanding history of

<sup>1</sup> Public Health Service Act Section 2713, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 300gg-13

<sup>2</sup> https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-restore-public-trust-vaccines-acip.html

vaccine skepticism, has caused concern that under Secretary Kennedy's influence, ACIP may re-evaluate its support for timetested, safe, and effective vaccines.<sup>3</sup>

As of June 2025, at the recommendation of ACIP, insurers subject to preventative services coverage requirements are obligated to provide age appropriate coverage for high-impact vaccines, including those for COVID-19, hepatitis, HPV, measles, meningitis, flu, pneumonia, RSV, chicken pox, mpox, and shingles.<sup>4</sup> Insurance coverage of these routine vaccinations ensures that deadly and dangerous diseases remain controlled, and the American people are protected.

On June 23, 2025, *Politico* reported that insurers have been put in a challenging position, without clear guidance on which vaccines to cover if ACIP's recommendations change. Granted anonymity, insurers expressed willingness to follow the science regardless of tumult within ACIP.<sup>5</sup>

Given the likelihood of conflicting and politically-influenced guidance that may now come from ACIP, we ask that you promptly respond to the following questions:

- 1) Will you commit to continuing to provide coverage, without cost-sharing, for vaccines approved by ACIP prior to June 24, 2025, if ACIP changes its recommendations?
- 2) In lieu of some scientifically dubious recommendations from the newly appointed ACIP, will you instead commit to covering evidence-based vaccination schedules recommended by a preponderance of trusted experts at national medical societies?

Thank you for your prompt response to these questions. We look forward to working together to ensure continued access to safe and effective vaccines.

Sincerely,

Sean Casten

Member of Congress

Kim Schrier, M.D.

Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Member of Congress

**Dwight Evans** 

Member of Congress

<sup>3</sup> https://www.kff.org/other/issue-brief/acip-cdc-and-insurance-coverage-of-vaccines-in-the-united-states/

<sup>4</sup> https://www.kff.org/immunizations-covered-by-the-aca/

 $<sup>5\</sup> https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-pulse/2025/06/23/insurers-to-follow-the-science-on-vaccines-00417643$ 

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman Member of Congress

Boline Workan Crlema

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Bill Foster Member of Congress

Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress

Gabe Vasque Member of Congress

Mike Quigley
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Bradley Scott Schneider Member of Congress

Nikki Budzinski Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

Becca Balint
Member of Congress

Darren Soto Member of Congress Danny d. Peris

Member of Congress

Julie Johnson

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi

Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

amen Underwas

fauld tonles

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Paul Tonko

Member of Congress

Karkeda Flail

Rashida Tlaib

Member of Congress

Lori Trahan

Member of Congress

Mike Thompson

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Angie Craig

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Ship.	K	lis
Sylvia R. Garcia		
Member of Congress		

Judy Chu Member of Congress

Doris Matsui Member of Congress

Don's Matsui

Delia C. Ramirez

Member of Congress

Ro Khanna Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Lucy McBath Member of Congress

may MCBath

Stephen F. Lynch Member of Congress

Steve Cohen Member of Congress

Robert Garcia Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson Member of Congress

John W. Mannion Member of Congress

Hillary 9. Scholten
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.

Member of Congress

Vake Auchincloss Member of Congress

Julia Brownley Member of Congress

Shri Thanedar Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

Ji Tokuda Member of Congress

N Tokula

Suzan K. DelBene Member of Congress

Gwen S. Moore Member of Congress Chell R

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress

Sarah McBride Member of Congress

Jonathan L. Jackson Member of Congress

Terri A. Sewell Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

Chris Deluzio Member of Congress Sarah Eleveth
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress

J. Luis Correa Member of Congress

Jared Huffman Member of Congress

George Latimer
Member of Congress

taramenti

John Garamendi Member of Congress

Kelly Modison Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Jennifer L. McClellan Member of Congress

Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr Member of Congress

Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress

Jesús G. "Chuy" García Member of Congress

Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress

Greg Landsman
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean Member of Congress Jan Schakowsky Member of Congress

Manette Diaz Barragán
Nanette Diaz Barragán Member of Congress

Member of Congress