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 Services 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

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

² 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.³

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.⁴ 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.⁵

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

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

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

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

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