

February 13, 2026

More than Seventy Organizations Support the Plaintiffs in *American Academy of Pediatrics et al. v. Kennedy Jr., et al.*

The undersigned organizations representing health care clinicians, public health, older adults, patients, family caregivers, consumers, physicians, and other health care providers support plaintiffs in *American Academy of Pediatrics et al. v. Kennedy Jr., et al.* (including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, American Public Health Association, Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Massachusetts Public Health Alliance, and the Massachusetts Chapter of the AAP).

Our organizations strongly support the plaintiffs' suit, which asks the court to both stay (i.e., halt) the February ACIP meeting and reverse changes made to the childhood immunization schedule. The basis for the suit is that the HHS Secretary's appointments of the current members on the ACIP were not based on merit but rather political affiliation with the Secretary. The suit claims the ACIP appointments, combined with the bypassing of the CDC's "Evidence to Recommendations Framework," were arbitrary and capricious, not in accordance with law, and done in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.

These arguments claim, therefore, that all actions taken by this falsely newly appointed ACIP are null and void—including the decision to downgrade the routine recommendation for COVID-19 vaccines to a shared clinical decision-making designation—and should be invalidated by the court.

On January 5, 2026, HHS announced a sweeping overhaul of the CDC's U.S. childhood immunization schedule. This was an unprecedented restructuring of the schedule done without even consulting the ACIP, further calling into question its legitimacy as an advisory committee and the legality of the Secretary's actions under the APA. It raises significant concerns for vaccine access, coverage, and implementation across the health care system. The changes will almost certainly result in increased preventable avoidable sickness and death of American children.

The suit also challenges Secretary Kennedy's unilateral decision to change Covid-19 recommendations via his May 19, 2025, Secretarial Directive and a video posted to X, as well as the subsequent ACIP vote to change COVID-19 vaccine recommendations to shared clinical decision-making for all individuals under the age of 65. Physicians, clinicians and other health care providers are always participating in shared clinical decision-making with their patients. Changing the recommendation from routine to shared clinical decision-making does not change that but rather introduces greater confusion and access issues.

These directives and changes to COVID-19 vaccine recommendations directly impact individuals who are represented in this suit by two pregnant women and an immunocompromised mother. Plaintiffs have also submitted declarations from former ACIP members, career public servants who recently left the CDC, and several highly experienced and knowledgeable healthcare providers affiliated with the plaintiff organization and concerned about the assault on vaccine recommendations.

If successful, the lawsuit would set important legal precedent concerning the limits of executive authority over public health policy and vaccine guidance. This makes today's hearing a watershed moment in the lives and health of American children. We stand with the plaintiffs and urge the court to affirm the legal necessity of an independent ACIP by ruling in their favor.

The following organizations sign on in support of this statement:

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)
Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO)
AiArthritis
Aimed Alliance
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Aging Research
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (ACCP)
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists (AAPP)
American Behcet's Disease Association (ABDA)
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Kidney Fund
American Medical Women's Association
American Physicians Groups
American Society for Meningitis Prevention
American Society of Hematology
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

American Society on Aging
Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Black Women's Health Imperative
California Chronic Care Coalition
Caregiver Action Network
CaringKind, The Heart of Alzheimer's Caregiving
Center for Medicine in the Public Interest
Chronic Care Policy Alliance
Concerned Citizen
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Diverse Elders Coalition (DEC)
Emily Stillman Foundation
END SEPSIS, the Legacy of Rory Staunton
EverThrive Illinois
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA)
Gerontological Society of America
Global Alzheimer's Platform Foundation® (GAP)
Global Coalition on Aging
HealthHIV
HealthyWomen
Illinois Pharmacists Association
Illinois Public Health Association
Immunize Colorado

Kimberly Coffey Foundation
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association,
Inc.
Medical Organization for Latino
Advancement
National Association of Nutrition and
Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of School Nurses
National Black Nurses Association, Inc
National Consumers League
National Foundation for Infectious
Diseases
National Health Care for the Homeless
Council
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National Menopause Foundation
National Urban League
NHCOA
Nurses Who Vaccinate
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner House Calls
Prevent Blindness
Private Practice Pediatrics and Family
Practice
Respiratory Health Association
RetireSafe
Sacramento Latino Medical Association
Sjogren's Foundation, Inc.
Society of Latinx Nurses
The AIDS Institute
The Balm In Gilead Inc
Village to Village Network
Voices of Alzheimer's
Womenheart