

Cosponsor the Protecting Free Vaccines Act, H.R.5448/S.2857

Issue: Preserve coverage for long-standing, safe, and effective vaccines, backed by evidence-based science.

Why Action is Needed

As internal medicine physicians on the front lines of patient care, we understand the critical role vaccines play in mitigating the spread of preventable diseases, especially among patients most vulnerable to serious complications. At a time when the nation faces one of the largest measles outbreaks in decades, we must ensure patients have access to vaccines backed by long-standing, evidence-based science. Recent changes to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) panel and the arbitrary manner in which immunization schedules have recently been modified have led to unnecessary confusion. These changes have significantly undermined the scientific validity of long-standing vaccines that we, as a society, have greatly benefited from.

Not only do these changes further erode the public's trust in vaccines, but they also take away patients' choice. By statute, vaccines recommended by ACIP are covered by most health plans, including Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and private insurance, without patients having to pay out-of-pocket costs. When changes to ACIP and ACIP recommendations are arbitrarily made without consideration of credible, long-standing, evidence-based science, health plans could drop coverage for vaccines removed from ACIP's immunization schedules. This will result in patients losing their choice if vaccine coverage is taken away from them.

Vaccines remain one of the most important and cost-effective public health measures for combating communicable diseases. Without vaccine coverage, patients' access to vaccines will be at risk.

- Over the last 50 years, the measles vaccine has saved nearly [94 million lives](#) worldwide.
- Routine childhood vaccinations [prevented](#) approximately 508 million cases of illness, 32 million hospitalizations, and more than 1 million deaths in approximately 117 million children born during 1994 – 2023. This resulted in \$540 billion in direct cost savings and \$2.7 trillion in societal cost savings.

ACP's Position

ACP strongly believes that vaccines are vital to our nation's ability to mitigate diseases that threaten public health, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to promoting evidence-based immunization practices. ACP [supports](#) the Protecting Free Vaccines Act to safeguard access to vaccines recommended by ACIP in October 2024. The bill would preserve access to vaccines backed by rigorous scientific standards and ensure health plans will continue to cover them. Further, it would prevent coverage denials of vaccines removed from ACIP recommendations after October 2024, effectively locking in coverage, free of charge, through January 1, 2030.

Call to Action

Co-sponsor the Protecting Free Vaccines Act, H.R.5448/S.2857, which would protect public health by guaranteeing that patients will have access to well-established vaccines backed by rigorous scientific standards and fact-based science, without cost-sharing.