



November 20, 2025

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pallone:

As members of the Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC), we write in support of the Protecting Free Vaccines Act. This legislation would ensure that, despite significant changes and uncertainty within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), adults in the United States will maintain access to vaccines at little to no cost.

In the U.S., there has been significant progress made in reducing the disease burden of sicknesses that can be prevented by vaccination. Vaccines have eliminated polio in the U.S. and dramatically reduced the spread of many more crippling and potentially life-threatening diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps and rubella.

Approximately 50,000 adults die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases in the US. Millions more suffer from vaccine-preventable diseases, causing them to miss work and leaving some unable to care for those who depend on them. The United States spends \$26.5 billion annually treating four vaccine-preventable diseases in adults over the age of 50. Despite the demonstrated benefits of vaccination, adult immunization coverage lags.

Many factors can contribute to lower vaccination rates, including not knowing which vaccines to receive when, limited access to care, health insurance coverage and cost sharing. In recent years, we have made great strides in closing gaps in vaccination coverage, especially in offering no cost vaccines under Medicare Part D and Medicaid. However, these vaccines, like with private insurance plans are tied to ACIP recommendations.

For decades, Americans have relied on the ACIP to provide apolitical, expert, and evidence-based advice and recommendations on the use of vaccines. As HHS has recently made drastic

changes to ACIP membership, we are concerned that future recommendations may lead to a reduction in availability and access, and higher costs to obtain immunization. This would create greater financial burdens and red tape for adults who choose to get vaccines.

At a time when we should be pushing to make progress to eradicate vaccine-preventable diseases, the Protecting Free Vaccines Act would ensure we are not moving backwards to achieve that goal and create certainty for the hundreds of millions of Americans who want vaccines. We particularly support the provisions that would lock in coverage at no cost to the patient under the Medicare, Medicaid, and group health plans.

We thank you for your continued leadership on this issue and are looking forward to working with your office to advance the legislation. For any further information, please contact the AVAC managers at kpischke@adultvaccinesnow.org.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Geriatrics Society
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)
Big Cities Health Coalition
Families USA
Gerontological Society of America
HealthyWomen
Hepatitis B Foundation
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Immunize.org
Infectious Diseases Society of America
March of Dimes
NASTAD
National Consumers League
National Foundation for Infectious Diseases
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medical Association
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
The AIDS Institute
TransctRx - RedSail Technologies Inc
Vaccinate Your Family