

June 20, 2025

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
United States House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier, MD
United States House of Representatives
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pallone and Congresswoman Schrier,

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), alongside the 40 undersigned osteopathic specialty and state associations – collectively representing nearly 200,000 osteopathic physicians and medical students – we thank you for introducing the *Family Vaccine Protection Act*. This legislation would protect the critical work of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP). The ACIP's role in evaluating scientific evidence on vaccines and making recommendations to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director is vital to ensuring the best outcomes for our patients and continuity in evidence-based immunization across the United States. ACIP recommendations also play a critical role in ensuring health plan coverage of vaccines.

As physicians, it is our duty to appropriately counsel our patients on necessary vaccinations. With 57% of osteopathic physicians practicing in primary care specialties including family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics, we are on the frontlines of immunization efforts, treating millions of Americans. Our physicians look to the ACIP's recommendations for critical guidance in counseling patients on vaccinations, and understand the importance of ensuring science-based recommendations are not inappropriately ignored or altered. The committee's transparency and commitment to providing accurate scientific advice helps build crucial public trust in vaccinations that is necessary for protecting the health of our patients.

Without the protections to the ACIP's authority included in this legislation, Americans could be at risk of receiving potentially harmful or misleading vaccine recommendations and not having appropriate coverage of evidence-based immunizations under their health plans. Access could particularly be jeopardized for at-risk groups through more limited coverage under programs like the Vaccines for Children Program.

Again, thank you for your dedicated leadership on this issue and for your commitment to the health of our patients. The AOA, our affiliates, and our members stand ready to assist you in securing the enactment of this legislation. If you have any questions or if the AOA can be a resource, please contact AOA Vice President of Public Policy, John-Michael Villarama, at jvillarama@osteopathic.org or (202) 349-8748.

Sincerely,

American Osteopathic Association
American Academy of Osteopathy
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Internists
American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
American Osteopathic College of Radiology
American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology & Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association
Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association
Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society
Indiana Osteopathic Association
Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association
Kansas Association of Osteopathic Medicine
Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association
Maine Osteopathic Association
Maryland Association of Osteopathic Physicians
Michigan Osteopathic Association
Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society
Mississippi Osteopathic Medical Association
Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
New Mexico Osteopathic Medical Association
New York State Osteopathic Medical Society
North Carolina Osteopathic Medical Association
Ohio Osteopathic Association
Oklahoma Osteopathic Association
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon
Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California
South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society
Tennessee Osteopathic Medical Association
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
Utah Osteopathic Medical Association
Washington Osteopathic Medical Association
West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association
Wisconsin Association of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons