



January 15, 2026

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Ranking Member  
Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways & Means  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert "Bobby" Scott  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education & Workforce  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Members Wyden, Sanders, Pallone, Neal, and Scott:

**On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to express our appreciation and strong support for the Protecting Free Vaccines Act, S.2857/H.R.5448.** We commend you for your leadership in ensuring free health care coverage for lifesaving vaccines. As physicians, we rely on safe and effective vaccines to ensure that our patients are protected from communicable diseases. We support this legislation as it would ensure coverage of vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as of October 2024, before the recent changes to the ACIP panel that resulted in the firing and replacement of world-renowned vaccine and immunology experts with panelists who have made public comments undermining vaccine confidence. The Protecting Free Vaccines Act would protect public health by guaranteeing that our patients will have access to well-established vaccines backed by rigorous scientific standards and fact-based science, without cost-sharing.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician group in the United States. College members include 162,000 internal medicine physicians, related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Additionally, internal medicine is the specialty with the largest number of active physicians specializing in primary care, with 120,342 internal medicine physicians being identified as specializing in primary care in 2021.

Prior to changes at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the CDC in 2025, physicians relied on the U.S. federal government's data, resources, and guidance on communicable diseases to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information on outbreaks and vaccines to protect our patients. Unfortunately, the latest actions at the HHS and the CDC have significantly undermined the scientific validity of long-standing vaccines that we, as a society, have benefited greatly from. The data underscores the significant impact of vaccines in preventing communicable diseases and saving lives.



Over the last 50 years, the measles vaccine has saved nearly [94 million lives](#) worldwide. A recently published [study](#) in The Lancet used data from the World Health Organization's Expanded Programme on Immunization and found that vaccines for 14 common pathogens contributed to saving 154 million lives. Further, the study found that "for every death averted, 66 years of full health were gained on average." A 2024 [CDC study](#) further supports the role of vaccines in saving lives. Using data from the U.S. Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, researchers found that routine childhood vaccinations prevented approximately 508 million cases of illness, 32 million hospitalizations, and over 1 million deaths in approximately 117 million children born during 1994 – 2023. The findings also revealed significant cost savings, showing that routine childhood vaccinations yielded \$540 billion in direct cost savings and \$2.7 trillion in societal cost savings.

ACIP's recommendations play a key role in determining vaccine schedules. Health insurers rely on these vaccine recommendations for their vaccine coverage policies. One of the reasons we remain very alarmed with the changes to the ACIP panel is that ACIP recommendations could result in health plans dropping coverage for vaccines removed from immunization schedules. This would significantly limit patients' choice. Since the new ACIP panel has been convened, its process for developing policy recommendations has not relied on data-driven science, which has been very concerning. Instead of following science grounded in data to make informed decisions, the new panel is cherry-picking data of their own liking to make recommendations that they want to see, without scientifically validated research.

The Protecting Free Vaccines Act would safeguard vaccine access, specifically for vaccines that were recommended by ACIP in October 2024, prior to the new ACIP panel. If passed, this legislation would preserve access to vaccines backed by rigorous scientific standards and ensure that patients on Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and private insurance would continue to have access to 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. We strongly support this legislation and urge Congress to work together to advance S.2857/H.R.5448.

Vaccines remain one of the most important and cost-saving public health measures we have to combat communicable diseases. Congress must pass legislation to enhance patients' choice and ensure that patients will have access to long-standing, credible, life-saving vaccines. We stand ready to serve as a resource to support your efforts to advance the Protecting Free Vaccines Act. If you have any questions, please contact Vy Oxman, Senior Associate of Legislative Affairs, at [voxman@acponline.org](mailto:voxman@acponline.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason M. Goldman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" and last name "Goldman" clearly legible.

Jason M. Goldman, MD, MACP  
President, American College of Physicians