

July 9, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chair Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone:

The undersigned **104 health organizations** write to urge you to protect the integrity of the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Since 1984, the USPSTF has employed rigorous methodologies and significant public input to formulate recommendations based on research, data, and evidence.

The USPSTF is a scientifically independent, volunteer panel of national experts in prevention and evidence-based medicine that has issued nearly 300 evidence-based recommendations across 90 different topics to support preventive care and help people live healthier, longer lives. The Task Force works to improve the health of people nationwide by making evidence-based recommendations about clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medications. The current panel of 16 members features experts in clinical medicine, scientific research, and public health, and members are appointed by HHS secretaries to serve 4-year terms. All members are extensively vetted for conflicts of interest, and their service is completely voluntary and uncompensated.

The Task Force makes recommendations for primary care and disease prevention through a rigorous, multi-step process in collaboration with the public, evidence-based practice centers (EPCs), and experts in primary care and clinical research. An A or B recommendation reflects a substantial or moderate net benefit, suggesting that the recommended service should be offered to all eligible patients. For example, the USPSTF recommends folic acid during and leading up to pregnancy to prevent neural tube defects in infants.

Federal policymakers rely on the USPSTF recommendations, including Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Notably, insurers must provide cost-free coverage for preventive services that have been recommended by the USPSTF, such as lung and colorectal cancer screenings, behavioral counseling, prevention of maternal depression, childhood vision screenings, adult diabetes screenings, and many more. Equally important,

clinicians across the country rely on USPSTF recommendations to ensure they are providing the most up-to-date, evidence-based care to their patients, no matter where they live.

The USPSTF practices radical transparency, with all published USPSTF recommendations being available on their [website](#), including the type of preventative service, the year it was published, the applicable population, and the grade(s). For each recommendation, the public can view the entire recommendation statement, including the accompanying evidence review, specific considerations for clinical practice, and connections to prior related USPSTF guidance.

In the wake of the ruling in *Kennedy v. Braidwood*, which verified the constitutionality of the USPSTF and reemphasized the authority that has always existed for the Secretary of HHS to appoint and remove Task Force members at will, it is critical that Congress protects the integrity of the USPSTF from intentional or unintentional political interference. The loss of trustworthiness in the rigorous and nonpartisan work of the Task Force would devastate patients, hospital systems, and payers as misinformation creates barriers to accessing lifesaving and cost effective care.

To maintain the USPSTF's objectivity, effectiveness, and public trust, the following structures of the Task Force must remain intact:

- **Limited 4-year terms for members** to ensure that the panel evolves alongside scientific developments.
- **Staggered membership rotation (about one-quarter of members rotate off each year)** to provide continuity and institutional knowledge.
- **Membership consists of experienced primary care clinicians** from institutions across the United States, ensuring both relevant expertise and broad geographic representation.
- **Volunteer service** to eliminate financial incentives and reinforce independence.
- **Rigorous conflict-of-interest vetting** is conducted for all candidates and reviewed by AHRQ, both before appointment and as each new topic review begins.
- **Open member nominations process** announced annually in the *Federal Register*, encouraging broad public participation.
- **Scientific and public health input into appointments** as USPSTF and AHRQ leadership review all nominations, interview promising candidates, and then recommend to the Secretary who should be appointed.
- **The Secretary has endorsed and appointed all of the USPSTF's recommended members**, preserving scientific integrity across administrations.

The USPSTF's transparent, rigorous, and scientifically independent process is a national asset. It is why clinicians trust the Task Force's guidance, why patients follow its advice, and why lawmakers linked its recommendations to health coverage. We urge Congress to protect and preserve the USPSTF's current structure and operations to ensure that everyone continues to benefit from trusted, evidence-based preventive care.

Signed,

AcademyHealth  
Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Board of Family Medicine  
American Board of Medical Specialties  
American College of Clinical Pharmacy  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Gastroenterology  
American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics  
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA)  
American Liver Foundation  
American Medical Association  
American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)  
American Neurological Association  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association Services  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology

Amputee Coalition  
Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies  
Association for Diagnostics & Laboratory Medicine  
Association for Prevention Teaching and Research  
Association of American Cancer Institutes  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Departments of Family Medicine  
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health  
Coalition for National Trauma Research  
Colon Cancer Coalition  
Comagine Health  
Consortium of Social Science Associations  
Consumers Advancing Patient Safety  
Council of Medical Specialty Societies  
Elation Health  
Epilepsy Foundation of America  
Fight Colorectal Cancer  
FORCE: Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered  
Gateway Business Health Coalition  
Gerontological Society of America  
Health Care Systems Research Network  
Health Hats  
Health Policy Expert  
HealthPartners. Institute  
Healthy Teen Network  
HealthyWomen  
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute  
Hydrocephalus Association  
Infusion Access Foundation  
Islamic Civic Engagement Project  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Learning Health Community  
Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome (LGS) Foundation  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
March of Dimes  
Mass General Brigham  
MEDIS, LLC

MGH Stoeckle Center for Primary Care  
Innovation  
NAPCRG  
National Accelerator for Discovery in  
Precision Health  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners  
in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse  
Practitioners  
National Committee for Quality Assurance  
National Headache Foundation  
National Health Council  
National Infusion Center Association  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Nurse-Led Care Consortium  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
National Rural Health Association  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
(NOVA)  
Patient is Partner, LLC  
Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medical  
Association  
Prevent Blindness  
Primary Care Collaborative  
Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of  
America  
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine  
Society for Public Health Education  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Society of Teachers of Family Medicine  
Spina Bifida Association  
Stratis Health  
Texas Health Resources  
The Larry A. Green Center  
The Leapfrog Group  
The Lundquist Research Institute  
The National Alliance to Advance  
Adolescent Health/Got Transition  
The National Nurse-Led Consortium  
University of Michigan Institute for  
Healthcare Policy and Innovation  
University of Utah Health