

August 25, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Request to Include Pharmacists on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We write to request the appointment of pharmacists to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Pharmacists are among the most accessible health care professionals in the United States, playing a vital role in primary and preventive care. Pharmacists across the country have demonstrated their capacity and effectiveness in ensuring access to care, particularly in underserved and rural communities. Patients identify pharmacists among their most trusted healthcare providers and routinely seek guidance from their pharmacist on the risks and benefits of vaccines.

Despite their key role helping millions of American families decide what immunizations are right for them, pharmacists are not currently represented on ACIP. Their absence limits the breadth of practical, frontline insights that could inform more comprehensive and effective immunization recommendations. Including pharmacists on ACIP would strengthen ACIP's interdisciplinary approach and help ensure recommendations are fully grounded in the realities of patient access and healthcare delivery.

We respectfully request that HHS and CDC take the necessary steps to appoint at least one licensed pharmacist with appropriate expertise in immunizations to serve as an ACIP voting member. **To streamline the nominations process, we have compiled a list of exceptionally qualified pharmacists for your consideration (see attachment).** We stand ready to provide any additional information or assistance necessary to facilitate the nomination of pharmacists to the Committee.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued leadership in advancing public health.

Sincerely,

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists  
American Pharmacists Association  
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists  
American Society of Health-System Pharmacists  
National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations  
National Community Pharmacists Association

## Pharmacist ACIP Nominees

Maribeth Bettarelli, PharmD  
Executive Director, Quality and Accreditation  
CVS Health  
Vernon Hills, IL

Hillary Blackburn, PharmD, MBA  
Director, Medication Access and Affordability  
Ascension  
Nashville, TN

Kelly Goode, PharmD  
Professor and Director, PGY-1 Community-Based Pharmacy Residency Program  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Richmond, VA

Mary S. Hayney, PharmD, MPH  
Professor of Pharmacy (CHS)  
University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy  
Madison, WI 53705

Anna Meyer, PharmD  
Clinical Supervisor  
Avera Long-Term Pharmacy  
Sioux Falls, SD

Pamela Schweitzer, PharmD  
Former Assistant Surgeon General  
US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps  
Windsor Mill, MD

Linda Tyler, PharmD  
Professor Emeritus  
College of Pharmacy  
University of Utah Health  
Salt Lake City, Utah