

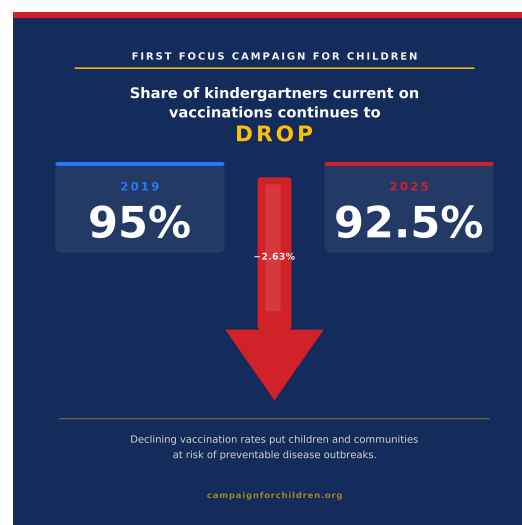
PROMOTE CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO LIFESAVING VACCINES



Child advocates call on members of Congress to hold the Department of Health and Human Services accountable for protecting children from vaccine-preventable illnesses and urge them to speak out against misinformation on vaccines.

Childhood vaccination rates are already declining. Recent actions to remove vaccines from the childhood immunization schedule threaten to further reduce vaccination rates, jeopardizing children's health.

- In 2025, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) **eliminated 6 routine vaccines for all U.S. children** from its recommended list, without review by experts. These include rotavirus, COVID-19, influenza, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and meningococcal vaccines. In March 2026, **a federal judge paused these changes** pending further legal review, however the confusion they have caused has still impacted vaccine access and vaccine hesitancy. In April 2026, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kennedy attempted to circumvent the judge's ruling by rechartering ACIP, though this was later withdrawn.
- Removing recommendations from the childhood immunization schedule has the potential to **create unnecessary barriers to vaccine access** for families and children — including confusion on recommendations, school vaccine requirements, insurance coverage, and issues with vaccine supply at pediatrician offices.



Support the Family Vaccine Protection Act (H.R. 3701 / S. 3323)

The Family Vaccine Protection Act would **ensure ACIP and the CDC continue to make evidence-based recommendations on childhood vaccinations** by codifying the way vaccine recommendations were reviewed and amended prior to this Administration. This bill codifies a rigorous, science-based system for recommending vaccines and **strengthens the independence of ACIP** by setting its structure into statute, preventing interference by CDC and HHS. This bill requires the HHS Secretary to adopt the official vaccine decision as set by ACIP — and if the Secretary chooses to depart from an ACIP recommendation, it requires the Secretary to publish the basis for the agency action, including an explanation as to how the action is supported by the best available, peer-reviewed scientific evidence.

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Support the Strengthening the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Act of 2026 (H.R. 8425)

The VFC program was established by Congress in 1994 in response to measles outbreaks in 1989–1991. The program **provides vaccines at little to no cost for children whose families may not be able to afford them**, which helps ensure that all children have access to recommended vaccinations. This bill would **expand the program and reduce barriers to routine vaccinations** so that more children have access to life-saving vaccines.

