

March 2, 2026

Members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
**Subject: Advocacy for Continued Parental Access and Choice in
Childhood Vaccination**

Dear ACIP Members,

I hope this finds you well. My name is Dr. Siobhan Dunnavant, a longtime OB-GYN and former state senator in Virginia, as well as an advisor to Advocates for Healthy Kids. I write to thank you for your recent decision not to limit access to childhood vaccines and for preserving parents' ability to obtain vaccinations for their children. Your approach promotes public health while recognizing the real-world realities families navigate every day.

As you prepare to meet again later this month, I respectfully encourage you to remain steadfast in your approach to safeguard access and honor parental decision-making. In my opinion, families are best served by policies that:

- Preserve access and availability across settings so parents can choose what fits their child's needs.
- Encourage open dialogue between parents and clinicians, without pressure or stigma.
- Respect clinical flexibility, allowing conversations about timing and spacing when appropriate.
- Offer transparent, easy-to-understand explanations of benefits, risks, and choices.
- Make ingredient and safety information easy to find and discuss.

Parents are their children's first and most consistent advocates. Empowering them with clear information fosters confident collaboration with physicians, which in turn bolsters uptake, trust, and long-term public health.

CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz recently said “there will never be a barrier to Americans [to] get access to the measles vaccine. And it is part of the core schedule.” We further encourage ACIP to apply this principle across all recommended vaccines, ensuring universal, barrier-free access for Americans.

Again, thank you for your service and for continuing to keep parental access and autonomy at the forefront as you consider additional vaccine-related topics at your meeting. We appreciate your commitment to balanced, evidence-informed guidance that families can trust.

Sincerely,

Siobhan Dunnivant, MD
Advisor, Advocates for Healthy Kids