

PROTECTING ALL AMERICANS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Recent changes to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and proposed legislative efforts—such as the “End the Vaccine Carveout Act”—are eroding public confidence in vaccines and dismantling the 40-year-old stability of the U.S. vaccine market.

Vaccine shortages and lower vaccine uptake would devastate the **more than 72 million Americans** who depend on widespread community vaccination as their primary defense against infectious disease. But they would also harm the broader public.

VACCINES PROTECT THOSE WHO CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES

72+ MILLION Americans

may not mount a protective response to vaccines, while others cannot safely receive certain vaccines at all.

14 MILLION

children and working-age adults who are immunocompromised.

58 MILLION

seniors whose immune systems naturally weaken with age.

BABIES

who are too young to be vaccinated.

Widespread vaccination reduces everyone’s exposure to dangerous pathogens and **protects those who cannot protect themselves.**



CURRENT THREATS TO VACCINE ACCESS AND PROTECTIONS

- Federal changes have triggered some states to create regional coalitions or turn to medical organizations for recommendations, while others continue to follow federal recommendations. As a result, vaccine guidance varies by state.
- Without a single trusted source, Americans face conflicting messages, which can erode public confidence and reduce vaccine uptake. When uptake is low, outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases increase and those who are immunocompromised are at risk, even if they are vaccinated.
- Vaccines removed from routine childhood immunization recommendations lose the liability protections afforded by the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP). VICP serves a dual purpose: it offers injured patients a streamlined path to compensation, while shielding manufacturers of covered vaccines from civil liability. Historically, when these protections have been withdrawn, manufacturers have exited the market, risking potentially dangerous supply shortages.
- Stripping liability protections in favor of unlimited civil lawsuits will not increase safety; it will drive up vaccine costs, lengthen the compensation process for injured families, and create a volatile, litigation-driven pricing environment.
- Bypassing standard, evidence-based review processes erodes public trust. Decreased vaccination rates directly threaten public health, particularly endangering immunocompromised populations who cannot rely on their own immune systems for protection.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

ADVOCATE

Contact your elected officials to support the consistent, evidence-based review that builds public trust.

STAY UP TO DATE ON SHOTS

Talk to your doctor about staying current on all recommended vaccines to protect those who cannot protect themselves.

SHARE THE FACTS

Vaccinations protect those who cannot protect themselves, including the 72 million+ Americans whose immune systems leave them vulnerable.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Lawmakers must prioritize a **stable and reliable vaccine supply** so that every family has access to life-saving protection without the fear of shortages or manufacturing gaps.

Leaders should champion the **independent, transparent scientific reviews** that define our vaccine standards. By upholding the integrity of ACIP's guidance, we ensure that public trust is built on a foundation of safety and clinical excellence.

For four decades, our national vaccine strategy has empowered millions of Americans to live healthier lives. We must build on this legacy by **modernizing our public health safeguards** to keep pace with new medical breakthroughs and evolving community needs.

Congress must act to preserve the protections that 72 million of our most vulnerable neighbors rely on. By safeguarding the systems, like VICP, that ensure **vaccine safety and availability**, we empower every American to make informed, confident health decisions for themselves and their families.

