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Representative Haley Stevens
30500 Northwestern Highway
Suite 525
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

February 28, 2025

Dear Representative Stevens:

As the Executive Director of Alana's Foundation, I am writing to express deep concern regarding the recent actions taken by Department of Health and Human Services secretary, Robert R. Kennedy, Jr. to cancel important CDC and FDA vaccine advisory meetings.

Alana's Foundation was established in memory of my daughter, who tragically passed away from the flu in 2003 at just five and a half years old. Our mission is clear: *To prevent deaths caused by influenza, a vaccine-preventable disease, and to provide support for families who have lost a child to illness.*

Today, I was alarmed to learn that a scheduled FDA vaccine advisory committee meeting—intended for March to determine the strains to be included in next season's flu vaccine—has been postponed indefinitely. Additionally, the CDC's vaccine advisory committee meeting, which was set to address the flu vaccine and several others, was canceled without explanation just days prior.

This is particularly troubling given that the United States is currently experiencing a severe flu season. To date, 86 children and over 19,000 adults have lost their lives. Furthermore, a measles outbreak in Texas underscores the urgent need for proactive public health measures. These cancellations raise serious concerns about the government's commitment to protecting public health.

Adding to this unease, the World Health Organization (WHO) is presently holding its advisory committee meeting to determine the flu strains recommended for the Northern Hemisphere's vaccine. Historically, the FDA's selection has been heavily influenced by WHO's findings. While I understand that FDA and CDC officials will be participating in this meeting virtually, it is deeply concerning given President Donald Trump's executive order to begin withdrawing the United States from the WHO—an order that reportedly led to federal health officials being instructed to cease communication with the organization. Such actions only further erode public trust.

Vaccine hesitancy has long been a challenge in this country, exacerbated by conspiracy theories and widespread misinformation—especially in the wake of COVID-19. Mr. Kennedy, a well-documented anti-vaccine activist, is actively undermining the United States' vaccine regulatory process, potentially paving the way for a resurgence of preventable diseases. While he insists he is not “anti- vaccine,” his repeated efforts to sow doubt about the safety and efficacy of vaccines are both irresponsible and dangerous.

Canceling these critical meetings without explanation not only jeopardizes public health but also exacerbates skepticism and distrust in government-led vaccine initiatives. This inaction directly harms the American people by fueling vaccine hesitancy and weakening our public health infrastructure. I urge immediate transparency and accountability in these decisions before further damage is done.

Sincerely,

Zachary Yaksich

Zachary N. Yaksich
Alana's Father and Executive Director
Alana's Foundation

*Alana's Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in memory of Alana Yaksich who died of influenza in February 2003. Recognition includes the 2012 Michigan Honoree for the Center for Disease Control Childhood Immunization Champion Award, the 2012 Alliance for Immunization in Michigan Outstanding Achievement Award, the 2015 National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit - Immunization Excellence Honorable Mention for Influenza Season Campaign, the 2016 AIM Bulls-Eye Award and the 2022 SEEN Magazine Community Changemaker Award. Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by the law. No goods or services were provided for this donation. Federal Tax ID #: 26-4353167

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July 11, 2025

Mr. Zachary Nicholas Yaksich
4235 Macqueen Dr
West Bloomfield, MI 48323-2834

Dear Zachary,

Thank you for reaching out to me regarding Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and his actions in shaping our country's public health infrastructure. I share your deep commitment to upholding the integrity of our federal government, safeguarding our democracy, and ensuring that those in leadership roles meet the highest ethical, professional, and security standards.

The individuals who lead our federal agencies wield enormous power to shape policies, safeguard national security, and protect the health and well-being of Americans. It is imperative that these positions be filled by qualified, ethical, and competent individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to public service and the values that underpin our democracy.

As you already know, Secretary Kennedy Jr. has gone on-record with misinformation about the efficacy and safety of vaccines and supported other concerning health care policy stances. Furthermore, he has overseen the firing of thousands of crucial health staff across HHS.

Like you, I am deeply concerned about the untold ramifications of his actions on the health and safety of Americans. It is imperative that American families and their healthcare providers have access to the most recent and accurate information to ensure the health of their loved ones.

This is why I have signed onto numerous letters to Secretary Kennedy Jr. urging him to protect vital programs at the Department of Health and Human Services, such as the Viral Hepatitis Laboratory Division, the Title X Family Planning Program, and the Region 5 Office of Head Start (OHS).

Please rest assured that I will continue to monitor this situation and will act in the best interest of the American people.

Thank you again for contacting me about this important issue. It is an honor to represent Michigan's 11th District in Congress, and I will work to ensure that my constituents' voices are heard in Washington. Please visit <https://stevens.house.gov/> to continue our conversation and stay in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Haley MS", followed by a long horizontal flourish line.

Haley Stevens
Member of Congress