

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2026

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write to express our grave concern about your comments suggesting the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) will be overhauled and the solicitation of nominations that followed those comments. USPSTF is a trusted, non-partisan body that provides clinicians and patients with evidence-based recommendations to prevent serious illness. The Task Force helps deliver affordable access to preventive care to patients across this country, and we strongly oppose any effort to politicize its work.

USPSTF members are nationally recognized professionals in primary care, prevention, and evidence-based medicine. They are selected through an open, public nomination process and include experts from a range of fields, including behavioral health, family medicine, geriatrics, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, and nursing. USPSTF's recommendations are based on rigorous review of peer-reviewed evidence and dictate insurance coverage of preventive services. Critically, current law requires insurers to cover USPSTF-recommended services without cost sharing, ensuring equitable access to essential services, including screenings for cardiovascular disease, behavioral health, and various forms of cancer.

Despite the importance of this body, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has been quietly undermining its work for the past year. While USPSTF's Procedure Manual clearly states the Task Force is intended to meet three times a year, the Task Force only met once last year. Additionally, the terms of five of the 16 Task Force members expired in December, and the Department has not provided clear information about how the Task Force will be returned to full capacity. These actions have slowed progress in issuing recommendations, directly impacting patients' access to preventive services.

We urge you to immediately resume the Task Force's critical operations in a manner consistent with the principles of independence and scientific rigor and halt any effort to replace duly qualified members of USPSTF or add unqualified members to the Task Force's ranks. The Department's pattern of appointing individuals without the necessary qualifications to scientific bodies, exemplified most recently by the removal and replacement of Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) members, must not be replicated.

To ensure USPSTF can continue its life-saving work, we request an immediate response to this letter.

Sincerely,



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



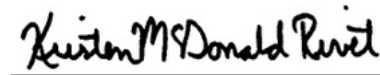
Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



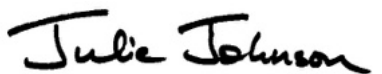
Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
Member of Congress



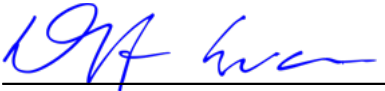
Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



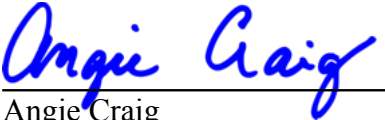
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



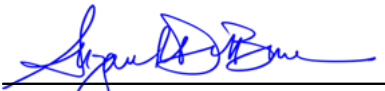
Debbie Dingell
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



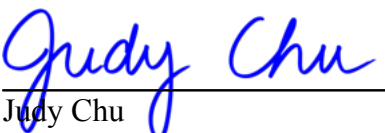
Kevin Mullin
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Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



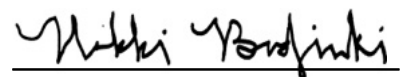
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
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Lois Frankel
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Nikki Budzinski
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Lateefah Simon
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



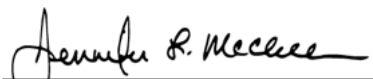
Robert Garcia
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Mark Pocan
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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
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Jennifer L. McClellan
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Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
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Josh Gottheimer
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Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



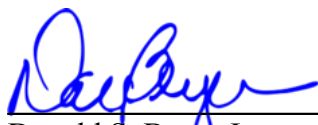
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
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Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



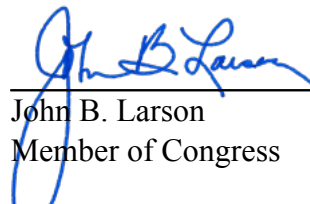
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



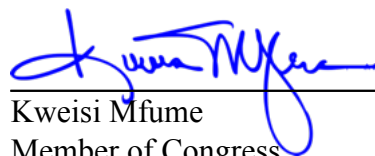
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



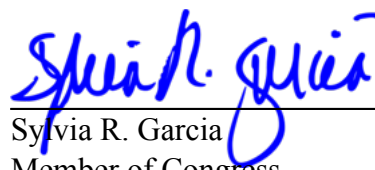
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



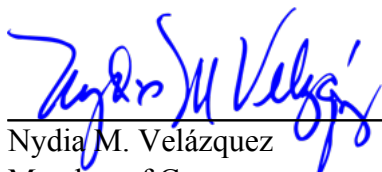
Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



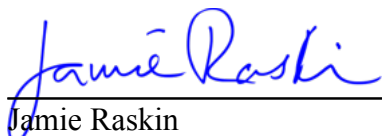
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



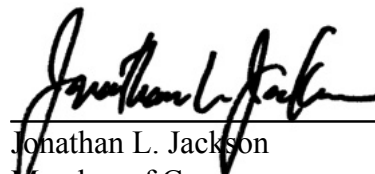
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



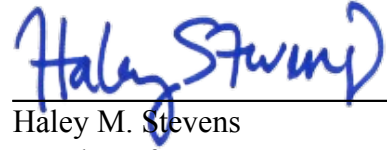
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



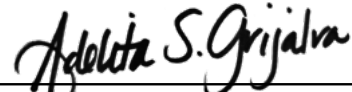
Betty McCollum
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Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
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Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress