
Protecting Our Children from the CDC Act

On October 20th, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) took the unprecedented step of recommending the addition of COVID-19 booster shots to the 2023 childhood immunization schedule.¹ Dr. Marty Makary of Johns Hopkins noted such a decision runs counter to previous CDC decisions in which greater clinical data has been available. He also noted that the FDA's clinical data has not been made fully available to the public.²

Initially, the CDC did not release data to justify its decision. Only recently – a month after ACIP's vote – did the CDC release one study.³ Yet even with the release of this data, further transparency is required. Over the course of the pandemic, reports have surfaced showing that the CDC has withheld data on COVID-19 vaccine boosters and hospitalizations.⁴ Increasing public trust starts with empowering people with information. This bill takes a step toward increasing public trust by requiring the CDC to release all its data.

Transparency is also paramount because ACIP's decision has potentially far-reaching consequences. States and localities routinely use the CDC's recommendations as cover to institute mandates that require children to get vaccinated to attend school. Even before ACIP's vote, lawmakers in California and Washington D.C. have already sought to impose such mandates despite the fact that children are the least at-risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19.⁵ Moreover, 44% of parents with children between the ages of 5 and 18 say they would not vaccinate their child.⁶

To ensure promote greater transparency and head off potential harms from ACIP's decision, Senator Lee is introducing the Protect Our Children from the CDC Act.

Bill Specifics

- Removes the current COVID-19 vaccine from the child and adolescent immunization schedule
- Requires that before adding any COVID-19 vaccine to the child and adolescent immunization schedule, the Secretary of HHS must release all of its clinical, safety, and efficacy data for that vaccine.

¹ "ACIP Immunization Schedule Vote," [Centers for Disease Control](#), October 20, 2022.

² "CDC could cause 'unintended harm' by adding COVID shot to kids' vaccine schedule: Dr. Marty Makary," [Fox News](#), October 20, 2022.

³ Link-Gelles R, Ciesla AA, Fleming-Dutra KE, et al. Effectiveness of Bivalent mRNA Vaccines in Preventing Symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infection — Increasing Community Access to Testing Program, United States, September–November 2022. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. ePub: 22 November 2022. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7148e1>.

⁴ Apoorva Mandavilli, "The C.D.C. Isn't Publishing Large Portions of the Covid Data It Collects," [The New York Times](#), February 20, 2022.

⁵ "Demographic Trends of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the US reported to CDC," [Centers for Disease Control](#), November 28, 2022. According to the CDC, for children 5 to 11, the odds of dying from COVID-19 among those who test positive is 0.000076% (463 deaths out of more than 6 million cases).

⁶ Megan Brennan, "COVID-19 Vaccines Uncommon for U.S. Children Under Age 5," [Gallup](#), August 19, 2022.

For more information concerning this bill or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Chris Medrano, chris_medrano@lee.senate.gov, in Senator Lee's office.