



**AWHP Oral Comments to CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
Delivered by AWHP CEO Millicent Gorham
June 26th, 2025**

My name is Millicent Gorham, and I serve as the CEO of the Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention — a non-profit, non-partisan organization focused on advancing policies that support preventive health.

I take seriously my role as a spokesperson for the broader public health and vaccine community when I say this: we have profound concerns about the continuity and credibility of our nation's vaccine infrastructure, and the destructive impact that recent actions will have on the prevention of vaccine-preventable diseases. To put it bluntly, lives are at risk and decades of public health and trust are being actively and carelessly undermined.

This is an unprecedented moment. In my more than four-decades in healthcare, I have never seen our country's leading medical societies voice collective concerns in the way that they have over recent events, including in response to the blatant dismissal of evidence that demonstrates COVID-19 vaccination is safe during pregnancy, and to the sudden, irresponsible firing of ACIP's previous members. Our nation's foremost medical experts — who have dedicated their careers to science and safety — are raising the alarms. We must not ignore them.

AWHP's concerns range from the dismantling of processes that have protected the health of generations, to the omission of planned discussions at this very meeting and status of evidence-based vaccine recommendations that await approval, to why resources are being used to re-debate settled science. But especially relevant for today is preserving vaccine choice.

ACIP recommendations do not require anyone to get vaccinated, but they do provide the certainty of insurance coverage, which is critical in allowing Americans to access vaccines. In eliminating recommendations, you are threatening coverage and essentially removing choice for people who *want* to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

Confusing, competing recommendations will only increase vaccine-preventable diseases. The risks here are *not* theoretical: they are painfully real. Children and adults alike *will* become sick — and die — from these serious illnesses. Disregarding these facts, along with public health expertise, is unacceptable.

We all want to protect the health of our loved ones. I implore you to recognize that maintaining the integrity of our nation's vaccine infrastructure is critical to doing so.

Thank you.