

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 14, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

As Members of Congress with medical backgrounds and hands-on experience translating scientific literature into practical healthcare solutions, we write to express our strong support in altering the makeup of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). We believe the Task Force should prioritize placement of practicing non-biased clinicians who can effectively balance rigorous, scientific evidence with real-world clinical application, while ensuring preventive guidelines rooted in science are published in a timely manner to address pressing public health needs.

The USPSTF is tasked with systematically reviewing the evidence of effectiveness and developing recommendations for clinical preventive services. In 2010, the Affordable Care Act expanded the authority of the USPSTF and tied coverage recommendations to Task Force determinations. However, since the USPSTF's authority was expanded, the rate of incidence of preventable chronic disease in the United States has only climbed. Notably, adult obesity rates have increased 5% since 2010,¹ and incidences of Type 2 diabetes increased nearly 20% from 2012 to 2022,² highlighting the urgent need for this body to focus on more effective preventive strategies.

Rather than maintaining focus on its core mission of preventive care recommendations, the Task Force has allocated substantial attention to divisive social issues, including race and gender identity considerations that extend beyond traditional clinical parameters. Too frequently, the Task Force concludes that recommendations cannot be made due to insufficient evidence, resulting in delayed or altogether canceled guidance on critical preventive services.

Further, there is no mandate for the Task Force to be comprised of any specialty, meaning the group is often tasked with making recommendations in a field of medicine in which they have no practical knowledge. For example the USPSTF recommended against Prostate Cancer screening without a single Urologist on the panel. The recommendations led to an increase of later stage disease at diagnosis.³ Additionally, the recommendation process lacks sufficient transparency, making it difficult to assess how clinical decisions are reached. These structural deficiencies have led to concerning outcomes. For instance, the Task Force has claimed inability to make recommendations on essential preventive services like skin cancer screening, citing insufficient evidence despite widespread clinical consensus on their value.

¹ <https://www.epicresearch.org/articles/after-a-decade-of-increase-obesity-and-severe-obesity-have-trended-back-down>

² <https://dom-pubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/dom.15797?af=R>

³ <https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/cncr.32605>

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Modifying the makeup of the current panel would help restore the USPSTF's original mission: to systematically evaluate clinical evidence and issue recommendations based solely on medical data and public health impact. Evidence-based, objective healthcare policy is essential to preserving trust in preventive services and maintaining the statutory requirement for insurers to cover USPSTF "A" and "B"-rated services at no cost to patients under the Affordable Care Act.

We greatly appreciate your work with President Trump to lead the effort to Make America Healthy Again, and a major piece of that mission is to prevent Americans from getting sick in the first place. The USPSTF should be at the forefront of the MAHA agenda, finding new therapies, treatments, and routines that will prevent Americans from becoming unhealthy, not parroting ideology outside what most Americans would consider healthcare. The President and the American people deserve a USPSTF that is committed to its mission.

Thank you for considering this perspective. We cannot afford to sacrifice the excellence and quality of promoting health and wellness to the altar of prejudice and divisive ideology. Reconstructing the USPSTF to reflect unbiased experts will reaffirm its essential role in protecting and promoting the health of all Americans.

Sincerely,



Diana Harshbarger, Pharm.D.
Member of Congress



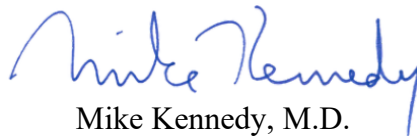
Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson, M.D.
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Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mike Kennedy, M.D.
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Brian Babin, D.D.S.
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