



## Vermont Chapter

INCORPORATED IN VERMONT

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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Contact: Stephanie Winters  
[swinters@vtmd.org](mailto:swinters@vtmd.org)  
802-249-7487

### **Vermont Physician Organizations Decry Termination of Federal Immunization Committee Members**

The Vermont Medical Society (VMS), joined by the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter (AAPVT), and the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians (VTAFP) stand in strong opposition to the recent dangerous decision by the US Health and Human Services (HHS) to abruptly replace the 17 experts of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Vaccines have saved countless lives globally and are proven to safely and effectively control the spread of disease. When the VMS was founded, 200 years ago, it was common for children to die from smallpox, polio, diphtheria and many other diseases we no longer see thanks to vaccines. If the reckless upheaval of the ACIP leads to limited access to vaccines, false messaging about vaccines or lower vaccination rates, we will see higher rates of preventable illness and death, especially in our babies, children and most vulnerable adults. We call for the HHS to reverse this decision. Our organizations remain dedicated to our mission of protecting the health of all Vermonters. We encourage our patients and communities to continue to seek guidance from their local health care professionals and other trusted national sources like the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians and American Medical Association.

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**About the Vermont Medical Society (VMS):** VMS is the leading voice of physicians in the state and is dedicated to optimizing the health of all Vermonters and the health care environment in which Vermont physicians and physician assistants practice medicine. The Society serves its 3,100 members through public policy advocacy on the state and federal levels, as well as by providing legal, administrative and educational support, producing a rich flow of news and information and offering member benefits that increase medical practice effectiveness and efficiency. For more information, visit [www.VTMD.org](http://www.VTMD.org).

**About the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians (VTAFP):** VTAFP is committed to promoting excellence in and universal access to high quality family medicine in Vermont, including a healthy and well supported workforce. We strive to champion equitable opportunities for health to all with a focus on health equity for the entire community. For more information, visit: <https://vtafp.net/>

**About the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter (AAPVT):** AAPVT is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the physical, mental, and social health and well-being of the state's infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. AAPVT works to achieve these goals by using the collective voice of Vermont's pediatricians to improve the lives of Vermont's youth through public education, research, child advocacy and policy development. For more information, visit <https://www.aapvt.org/>