



August 7, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collier Monarez, PhD
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Monarez,

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), representing 128,300 family physicians and students nationwide, I congratulate you on your historic confirmation as the first CDC Director to undergo Senate confirmation. Your leadership comes at a pivotal moment for our nation's public health infrastructure, and we look forward to working together to strengthen the health and well-being of all Americans.

Your distinguished career, spanning biomedical research, national security, and public health preparedness, reflects a vital combination of scientific expertise and vision that, we believe, will position the CDC to strengthen its mission and rebuild public trust in science-driven health policy. The AAFP shares your commitment to a public health framework grounded in data, scientific rigor, and transparency. With over 200 million office visits annually, family physicians represent the largest share of office-based primary care and are among the most trusted voices in health care.ⁱ According to the 2025 Kaiser Family Foundation's poll on health information and trust, 85% respondents reported to have either a "great deal" or a "fair amount" of trust in their doctor to make the right recommendations when it comes to health issues, over key health agencies and public health officials.ⁱⁱ Family physicians rely on CDC guidance to earn and maintain this trust and to navigate complex public health challenges, from infectious disease response to chronic disease prevention. Your stewardship will be essential to ensure that this guidance remains timely, transparent, and grounded in evidence.

As you assume your role, we wish to underscore two areas of particular importance to family physicians and the patients they serve:

1. Upholding Scientific Integrity in Immunization Policy

As the nation faces complex challenges, including an active measles outbreak, the rising threat of avian influenza, and persistent vaccine hesitancy, the independence and credibility of regulatory bodies informing vaccine policy are more important than ever. Family physicians rely on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)'s

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evidence-based guidance to inform their clinical decisions and communicate vaccine information effectively with their patients. Sustaining public confidence in vaccines requires not only rigorous data but also trusted institutions to interpret and convey that evidence. Ensuring that ACIP continues to include experts with deep experience in vaccine development, clinical trials, and public health implementation will be critical to its continued success. We look forward to working with you to strengthen vaccine confidence and ensure that ACIP remains a cornerstone of public trust.

2. Revitalizing OSH's Critical Functions

The CDC's Office on Smoking and Health (OSH) has long been a national leader in tobacco control, supporting data-driven policy, public education, and cessation services that have saved lives and reduced tobacco-related disease. The *Tips From Former Smokers* campaign alone has helped over a million Americans quit smoking, prevented more than 129,000 premature deaths, and saved more than \$7.3 billion health care dollars.ⁱⁱⁱ We are deeply concerned that recent staffing reductions and program closures, including the suspension of the *Tips* campaign and the likely shutdown of many state quit lines, threaten to reverse decades of progress. These tools are not just effective; they are essential. Family physicians regularly rely on OSH's resources to help patients quit smoking and to advocate for healthier communities. The loss of OSH also weakens our national response to emerging threats like youth vaping. Its work with state and local health departments has been critical to shaping effective prevention strategies. Eliminating this infrastructure risks leaving a dangerous gap in our public health system. We are confident that, under your leadership, the CDC can restore and strengthen this vital work. The AAFP stands ready to support efforts to ensure tobacco control remains a national priority and that proven, life-saving programs are preserved.

Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. We look forward to working closely with you to advance the health and well-being of all Americans. Should you have any questions, please contact David Tully, Vice President of Government Relations, at dtully@aaafp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Furr, M.D., FAAFP".

Steven Furr, MD, FAAFP
American Academy of Physicians, Board Chair

ⁱ [Projecting US Primary Care Physician Workforce Needs: 2010-2025 - PMC](#)

ⁱⁱ [KFF Tracking Poll on Health Information and Trust: January 2025 | KFF](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Tips From Former Smokers® | Tips From Former Smokers® | CDC](#)