



September 17, 2026

**VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION**

Cynthia Goss  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (Health Policy)  
Office of the Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

**RE: Docket No. HHS-OS-2026-0332**

Dear Ms. Goss:

The Hispanic Leadership Fund is a nonpartisan advocacy organization dedicated to promoting public policy that strengthens liberty, opportunity, and prosperity for all.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Request for Information regarding the categories used in federal vaccine recommendations and the considerations that should guide future policy on recommendations.

HLF supports healthcare policies that expand individual choice, improve affordability and access, and empower Americans to make informed decisions about their health and their families' health. As HHS evaluates potential changes to the federal vaccine recommendation framework, the Department should ensure that efforts to provide greater flexibility and individual autonomy do not make vaccines more expensive or difficult to access, undermine existing patient protections, or create unnecessary uncertainty for families and healthcare providers.

HLF is particularly concerned about the potential impact of changes to recommendations on the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), as it is tied in part to federal vaccine recommendations. VICP provides a no-fault pathway for individuals to receive compensation for certain vaccine-related injuries, offering patients an alternative to lengthy and costly traditional litigation. The program was also created in response to a high-liability environment that threatened vaccine supply and access, making its

continued stability important for patients, providers, and manufacturers. HHS should carefully evaluate how any potential new or modified recommendation categories could affect the program and do everything in its power to avoid unintended consequences that could increase costs, disrupt vaccine supply, or limit patient access.

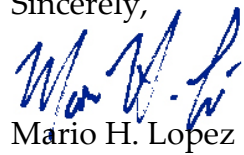
Moreover, all federal vaccine recommendations should remain grounded in the strongest available scientific evidence, including peer-reviewed clinical research, epidemiological data, and post-market safety monitoring. When evidence is limited or evolving, HHS should clearly communicate those uncertainties, fully explain the basis for its decisions, and revisit recommendations as new information becomes available. HHS should also commit to transparency throughout the recommendation process by disclosing relevant conflicts of interest, explaining the reasoning behind changes, and by providing meaningful opportunities for public input.

It is equally important that any change in the category, timing, or frequency of a vaccine recommendation be accompanied by clear communication that identifies what changed and its implications for vaccine availability, insurance coverage, or federal programs. Providing this information clearly and consistently will help Americans make informed healthcare decisions and maintain confidence in the federal recommendation process.

As HHS considers changes to the federal vaccine recommendation framework, HLF urges the Department to preserve access and affordability, protect VICP, maintain rigorous scientific standards, and ensure transparency throughout the process. Doing so will help preserve individual choice while providing patients and families with the information and protections necessary to make informed healthcare decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Mario H. Lopez  
President