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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

August 30, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As you continue to work on the Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Act, I urge the subcommittee to protect our children and adolescents by prohibiting federal funding to state health departments and national associations that promote the COVID-19 shot.

Specifically, federal grant funding programs and cooperative agreements during the previous administration have included initiatives to advance COVID-19 vaccine outreach. In turn, national associations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics have continually used their platform to encourage the COVID-19 shot and influence state health departments' recommended pediatric immunization schedules, now contrary to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccinations for children.

In past years, the Committee has included important provisions that restrict taxpayer dollars from supporting activities inconsistent with congressional intent and the Executive branch. As we seek to ensure accountability, we must protect American treasure from being used for purposes that may in fact put children's health at risk.

I respectfully request the inclusion of the following language in the bill:

None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to enter into, extend, or renew a contract with any entity including a state's health department that promotes, advertises, or otherwise encourages the administration of any vaccine for COVID-19 for children and adolescents.

This language is one step to protect our children, codify President Trump's COVID-19 oversight, and right the wrongs of the Biden Administration in the public health sector.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership in the appropriations process. I look forward to working with you as the subcommittee continues to develop the Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clay Higgins".

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress