



## Health Policy Briefing

September 2, 2025

CDC Director Susan Monarez Fired by Trump  
Administration

Susan Monarez was fired as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Wednesday, less than one month into her tenure as the first Senate-confirmed leader of the U.S. national public health agency. “Susan Monarez is not aligned with the President’s agenda of Making America Healthy Again,” a White House spokesperson said Wednesday night. According to reports, Monarez refused to fire top CDC officials and endorse vaccine policy changes pushed by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. When asked to resign by the White House, Monarez refused. She is now challenging her dismissal, arguing that the termination was not valid because it did not come directly from the President. Several top leaders at the agency resigned immediately following the news of Monarez’s ousting, including Dr. Debra Houry, CDC chief medical officer; Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases; Dr. Dan Jernigan, director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases; and Dr. Jennifer Layden, director of the Office of Public Health Data, Surveillance, and Technology. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chair Bill Cassidy, MD (R-La.) stated in a post on X that “these high-profile departures will require oversight by the HELP Committee.” HHS Deputy Secretary Jim O’Neill has been named the acting director of the CDC. O’Neill served at HHS during the George W. Bush administration and is the former CEO of the Thiel Foundation.

## FDA Rescinds EUAs for Covid-19 Vaccines

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revoked the remaining emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for Covid-19 vaccines on Wednesday. While individuals between the ages of six months and 65 years at higher risk of severe disease from Covid-19 will still be able to obtain immunization, the shots will no longer be as easily accessible for all Americans. Younger people without a pre-existing condition who wish to be vaccinated against Covid-19 will need to first consult with their doctors to determine whether the vaccine’s off-label use is medically appropriate. For those at higher risk of severe disease, the FDA has issued marketing authorization for Moderna’s vaccine for those six months and older, Pfizer’s vaccine for those five years and older, and Novavax’s vaccine for those 12 years and older.

## Inside

ACIP to Meet September 18-19.....	2
RFK Jr. to Testify Before Senate Finance on Thursday....	2
Upcoming Congressional Hearings and Markups.....	2
Recently Introduced Health Legislation.....	2

## ACIP to Meet September 18-19

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has scheduled its next meeting for September 18 and 19. The agenda includes discussions of Covid-19 vaccines; the Hepatitis B vaccine; the measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (MMRV) vaccine; and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). Senate HELP Committee Chair Bill Cassidy, MD (R-La.) has called for the meeting to be indefinitely postponed following the recent shakeup to CDC leadership and changes to the nation's vaccine policies. CDC Director Susan Monarez was fired on Wednesday, the same day the FDA acted to limit approval of Covid shots to a smaller population of people. "Serious allegations have been made about the meeting agenda, membership, and lack of scientific process being followed for the now announced September ACIP meeting," Cassidy said in a statement. "These decisions directly impact children's health, and the meeting should not occur until significant oversight has been conducted. If the meeting proceeds, any recommendations made should be rejected as lacking legitimacy given the seriousness of the allegations and the current turmoil in CDC leadership."

## RFK Jr. to Testify Before Senate Finance on Thursday

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. will testify before the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday. The HHS Secretary's appearance before the panel, which was planned before last week's changes to CDC leadership, will focus on the President's 2026 health care agenda. It will be lawmakers' first opportunity to question Kennedy face to face since May, when he testified before appropriators about the department's fiscal year 2026 budget request. Sen. Bill Cassidy, MD (R-La.), who has expressed concerns about recent moves at HHS, is a member of the Finance Committee.

## Upcoming Congressional Hearings and Markups

House Appropriations Subcommittee markup of Fiscal Year 2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Bill; 5:00 p.m.; September 2

House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health hearing "Examining Opportunities to Advance American Health Care through the Use of Artificial Intelligence Technologies;" 10:15 a.m.; September 3

Senate Finance Committee open executive session to consider favorably reporting the nomination of Gustav Chiarello III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Honorable Michael Stuart, of West Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services; 9:30 a.m.; September 4

Senate Finance Committee hearing "The President's 2026 Health Care Agenda;" 10:00 a.m.; September 4

## Recently Introduced Health Legislation

H.Res.662 — Expressing support for the designation of the week of August 25 through August 31, 2025, as "Black Breastfeeding Week"; Sponsor: Adams, Alma S. [Rep.-D-NC-12]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5023 —To amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to attempted murder and the trafficking of fentanyl; Sponsor: Lawler, Michael [Rep.-R-NY-17]; Committees: House – Judiciary

H.R.5027 —To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to deem adulterated food containing certain color additives, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Meng, Grace [Rep.-D-NY-6]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5031 —To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to temporarily provide for long-term care pharmacy supply fees in connection with the dispensing of certain drugs; Sponsor: Van Duyne, Beth [Rep.-R-TX-24]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Ways and Means

H.R.5032 — To amend the Controlled Substances Act to permanently schedule the class of benzimidazole-opioids known as nitazenes, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Vindman, Eugene Simon [Rep.-D-VA-7]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary

H.R.5039 — To amend title 17, United States Code, to provide an exception for circumvention for the diagnosis, maintenance, or repair of a powered mobility assistance device, to require original equipment manufacturers of powered mobility assistance devices to make available certain documentation, diagnostic, and repair information to independent repair providers and consumers, and for other purposes. Sponsor: Frost, Maxwell [Rep.-D-FL-10]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Judiciary

H.R.5040 – To direct each Secretary of a military department to conduct a review and update of any online information relating to suicide prevention or behavioral health. Sponsor: Hayes, Jahana [Rep.-D-CT-5]; Committees: House - Armed Services

H.R.5043 — To repeal certain portions of An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of H. Con. Res. 14; Sponsor: Krishnamoorthi, Raja [Rep.-D-IL-8]; Committees: House - Ways and Means; Energy and Commerce; Agriculture

H.R.5045 — To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to facilitate research regarding the use of generative artificial intelligence in health care, and for other purposes; Sponsor: Lieu, Ted [Rep.-D-CA-36]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce

H.R.5052 — To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Labor to conduct a study and issue a report on grant programs to support the nursing workforce; Sponsor: Nunn, Zachary [Rep.-R-IA-3]; Committees: House - Energy and Commerce; Education and Workforce