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February 19, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD

Chair

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

428 Senate Dirksen Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cassidy:

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) greatly appreciated your strong and heartfelt comments during the HHS Secretary confirmation process about the proven track record of vaccines in preventing diseases, the importance of continued research into ways to protect the public from infectious diseases, and especially the commitments you secured from Secretary Kennedy.

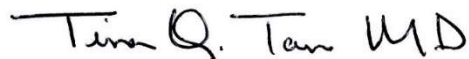
IDSA represents over 13,000 physicians, scientists and other health care and public health professionals who specialize in the prevention, detection and treatment of infectious diseases. Like you, our members have seen firsthand the devastation of vaccine-preventable illnesses as well as the life-saving power of vaccines. **We are eager to work with you and the administration to ensure that federal actions regarding the evaluation, approval, recommendations and safety monitoring of vaccines remain rooted in the best available science.** It is important to hold Secretary Kennedy accountable to his commitments to you, including:

- Preservation of existing vaccine approval and safety monitoring systems with 30-day notice to the HELP Committee of any changes and the option of a HELP Committee hearing prior to any changes.
- Maintenance of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices membership and recommendations without changes.
- Continuance of credible information on vaccines on federal government websites and communications.
- Collaboration on top level hiring decisions at HHS, beyond Senate-confirmed positions.
- Quarterly HELP Committee appearances by Secretary Kennedy.
- HELP Committee Chair selection of a representative on any board or commission formed to review vaccine safety.

These efforts are critical to continue making progress on building trust in science and protecting the public from infectious diseases, including through widespread distribution of vaccines, especially for vulnerable populations. Additionally, thank you for sharing your concerns about the recent announcement that the Louisiana Department of Health will stop mass vaccination clinics. We are eager to collaborate with you to support federal-state partnerships on vaccine programs to ensure people have access to the vaccines they need, especially those with low rates of vaccine uptake and/or increased vulnerability to illness.

Our members possess decades of expertise in the research, development, evaluation and clinical use of vaccines, and welcome the opportunity to support your important work. Thank you for your attention to these important issues. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Amanda Jezek, IDSA's senior vice president for public policy and government relations at ajezek@idsociety.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Q. Tan MD". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tina Tan, MD, FIDSA, FPIDS, FAAP
President, IDSA