

**Abby Bownas**  
**Summit**  
**February 19**

The AVAC logo is centered within a large, stylized circular graphic. The graphic consists of multiple concentric, overlapping rings in shades of light blue and light green, creating a sense of depth and movement. The text 'AVAC' is in a large, bold, teal font. Below it, 'ADULT VACCINE' and 'ACCESS COALITION' are stacked in a smaller, bold, teal font.

**AVAC**  
**ADULT VACCINE**  
**ACCESS COALITION**

# Administration: Recent & Upcoming

## Annual Review of the Medicaid and CHIP Child and Adult Core Sets of Quality Measures



Jay Bhattacharya, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), said in a Senate hearing Tuesday that he has not seen any studies supporting the theory that any vaccines cause autism, a break from Health and Human Services Secretary [Robert F. Kennedy Jr.](#), who has long speculated on a potential connection and has not discounted the possibility.

### HEALTH Major shakeup underway at HHS as White House braces for midterms

Deputy Secretary Jim O'Neill and General Counsel Mike Stuart are exiting HHS, while other officials are being promoted



## Oz urges Americans to get measles vaccine amid outbreaks

The New York Times

### F.D.A. Reverses Decision and Agrees to Review Moderna's Flu Vaccine

Moderna said it had held further discussions with regulators and announced that the agency would accept the company's application for approval of its flu vaccine that uses mRNA technology.



The New York Times

### Federal Vaccine Advisers Take Aim at Covid Shots

Members of the federal vaccine panel chosen by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. are setting their sights on the next targets: the mRNA...



EMILY MULLIN SCIENCE FEB 4, 2026 5:00 AM

## HHS Is Making an AI Tool to Create Hypotheses About Vaccine Injury Claims

### Upcoming:

- ACIP ([February 25-27](#))
  - Agenda (not yet released)
  - Comment Opportunity
- CMS FY27 Call Letter (2/25)
- FY27 Budget Release – March

# Congress – Recent Vaccine Related Events

- **FY26.** Completion of 12 of 13 funding bills, including L-HHS. Level funding for immunization program (\$682m) (1/27)
- **Liability.**
  - Sen. Rand Paul introduces legislation to overhaul vaccine injury compensation system. (2/17)
  - Sens. Warren, Blumenthal, Markey, Alsbrooks send letter to HHS asks about potential changes to VICP. (1/27)
- **Preparedness.** Reps. House PAHPA Request For Information (2/17)
- **Hepatitis B.**
  - Reps Chu, Schrier announce GAO Study on Hep B Birth Dose (2/5)
  - Reps DeGette, Pallone, Clarke Letter to CDC on Hep B Study in Guinea-Bissau
- **Research.** Senate HELP Modernizing NIH hearing (2/3)
- **Affordability.** House E&C Hearing “Lowering Health Care Costs for All Americans.” Rep. Veasey asked about vaccines in relation to the measles and flu cases. (1/27)
- **Medical Freedom.** Rep. Steube Letter on Medical Freedom Vaccine Cases (2/6)

## Upcoming

- Surgeon General (2/25)
- Budget hearings (March)
- FY27
  - Congressional sign on letters House/Senate
  - Member submission process on programs and report language

# New Resource: Flu Economic Study

[\*Influenza's Economic Burden and the Impact of Adult Vaccination\*](#)

Dr. Robert Popovian, Chief Science Policy Officer  
at GHLF: [rpopovian@ghlf.org](mailto:rpopovian@ghlf.org)

**Key Finding:** Flu cost the US economy \$29 billion annually

**Learn More:**

- [White Pager Analysis](#)
- [Press Release](#)
- [AVAC One-Pager](#)
- [Partner Infographics](#)
- [GHLF Podcast](#)



## Vaccination Saves Lives and Billions in Health Care and Financial Costs



Despite the availability of vaccines, illnesses such as flu impose a significant burden on individuals, communities, and our economy. Flu most often results in missed days of work that impact employers, local businesses, and the financial health of families. Flu can also result in more devastating long-term health and financial impacts.

Improving flu vaccination uptake—particularly among adults aged 50 and older—can help reduce preventable hospitalizations, complications, and deaths. It can also help preserve workforce productivity and save billions of dollars annually—keeping our families and economy healthy and prosperous.

### Flu Costs the U.S. Economy \$29 Billion Annually

A recent economic analysis estimated the cost of illness associated with the flu among adults using health care utilization costs and labor market data.<sup>1</sup> The study explored the potential health and economic impact of increased flu vaccination rates among adults.

The U.S. experienced high rates of flu illnesses during the 2023–2024 season, which resulted in an estimated \$29 billion in total economic burden (\$16 billion in direct health care costs and \$13 billion in productivity losses).

Flu is an illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. Anyone can get the flu, however, some individuals are at higher risk for severe illness or complications. These include older adults, young children, and high-risk individuals with underlying chronic conditions.



### America's Flu Bill

for the 2023–24 Season

Health Care Costs ..... \$16,000,000,000

Lost Worker Productivity ..... \$13,000,000,000

Total Due:

**\$29,000,000,000\***

 Avoidable with higher vaccination rates

1. Robert Popovian and Wayne Winegardner, *Influenza's Economic Burden and the Impact of Adult Vaccination* (Global Healthy Living Foundation, 2026).



**A threatening anti-science movement needs to be counteracted with advocacy in a growing number of states.**

**Erin Abramsohn  
Summit  
February 19**

# Landscape

## *Kennedy Allies Target States to Overturn Vaccine Mandates for Schoolchildren*

Proponents of vaccines warn that the efforts will further dismantle the immunization infrastructure and lead to more outbreaks of disease.

## Measles outbreak linked to a Florida university as cases keep rising in the U.S.

Ave Maria University near Naples has at least 12 cases.

Local News

## Florida Senate committee approves bill that allows people injured by vaccines to sue drug manufacturers over advertisements

Updated on: January 20, 2026 / 12:38 PM EST / CBS/News Service of Florida

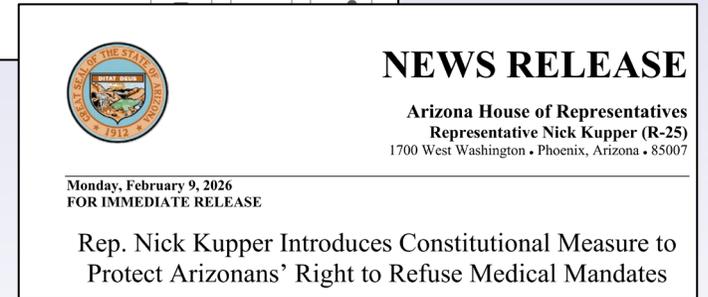


Reuters World Business Markets Sustainability More My News

### Doctors bear the burden as 'medical freedom' fuels worst US measles outbreak in 30 years

By Chad Terhune and Julie Steenhuisen

February 13, 2026 6:10 AM EST · Updated February 13, 2026



 **NEWS RELEASE**

Arizona House of Representatives  
Representative Nick Kupper (R-25)  
1700 West Washington • Phoenix, Arizona • 85007

Monday, February 9, 2026  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Nick Kupper Introduces Constitutional Measure to Protect Arizonans' Right to Refuse Medical Mandates



wp The Washington Post

### [What South Carolina's soaring measles outbreak means for the rest of the U.S.](#)

More than 840 measles infections have been reported in South Carolina, surpassing the tally in Texas last year. Public health experts say it...



**MAHA SEEKS RESPECT** — Tony Lyons, a top ally of HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and architect of Kennedy's MAHA coalition, has a message for Republican Party leaders ahead of the midterms: Don't take Kennedy's followers for granted, Cheyenne reports.

# Session Trends

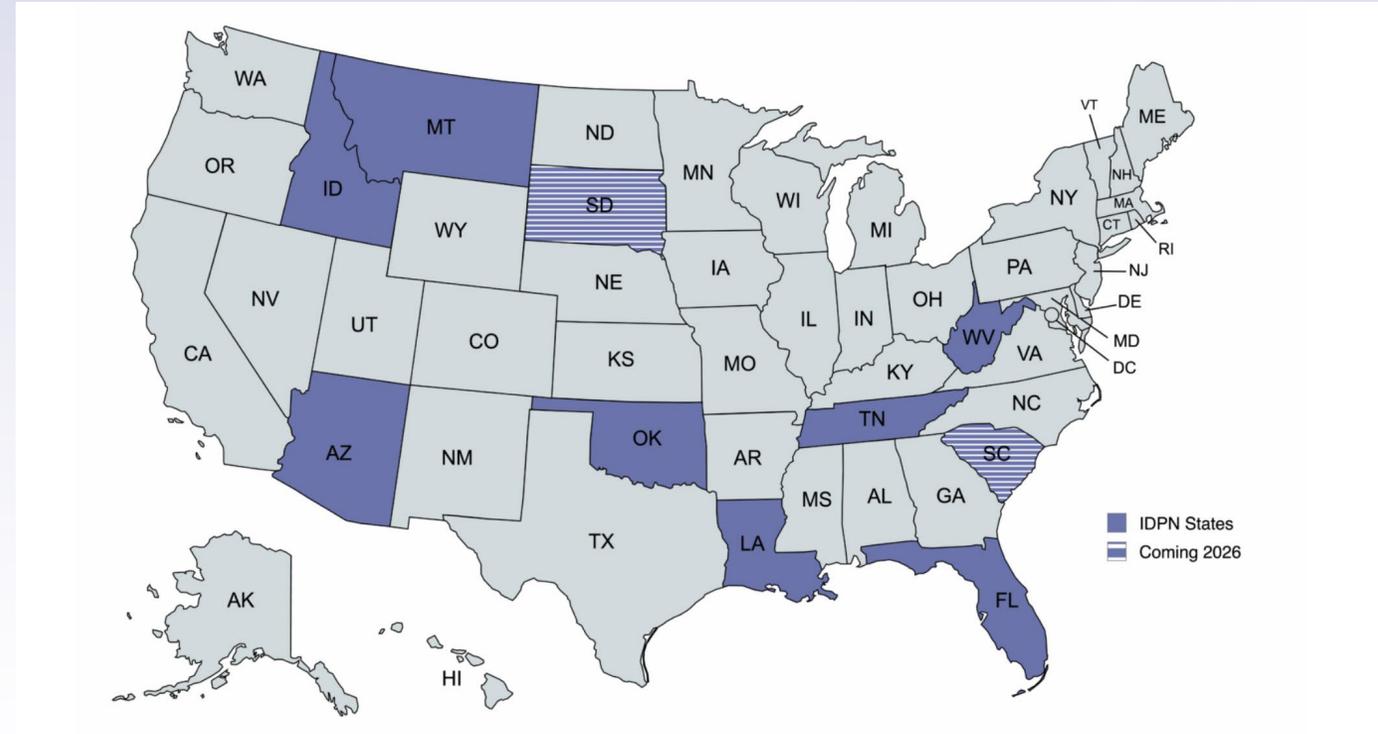
**IDPN States:** AZ, FL, ID, LA, MT, OK, SC, SD, TN, WV

**IDPN 250 bills across the country**

**150 in IDPN 10 states**

## Bill Trends this Session:

- Medical Freedom
- School-entry requirements/exemptions
- mRNA
- Infant Death/Autopsy Reporting
- Liability and reporting requirements
- Heb B



# This Week Snapshot...

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**Arizona.** If the bills are not given a hearing this week, then they are dead. As a result, there is a voluminous amount of bills scheduled to be heard!! Most Concerning HCR 2056. If passed by the legislature, creates a confusing and broad question on the November ballot for voters in Arizona.

**Idaho.** Expecting a two-year moratorium on gene-therapy immunizations to drop this week. The Senate Health and Welfare Chair has been getting a lot of pressure from him to hear the bill.

**South Dakota.** Last week, a SD medical conscience bill (HB 1153) that had passed House HHS (2/5) and moved to the House floor (2/10) was defeated!!! Opponents on the ground in SD worked this bill aggressively and it was defeated soundly on the House floor!!

**South Carolina** – As the outbreak continues in SD, we need help educating members – especially on mRNA and measles. This week watching Parental Bill of Rights (H4757/S. 840). H4757 going to house floor 2/18. Informed Consent for COVID-19 vaccines (S. 343) has 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing today!