

Whopper of the Week: RFK, Jr. says he gets fan mail from scientists and doctors, the letters sent to Congress actually ask for his resignation

IN SUMMARY:

Physicians and scientists across the country warned Congress that Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was unfit to serve as Secretary of Health and Human Services. After his confirmation, major medical societies publicly condemned his decisions as dangerous to the nation's health. At a [Senate Finance Committee](#) hearing in September, Kennedy told Senators that "scientists and doctors are supporting me all over the country." Senator Ron Wyden responded that he was getting lots of mail which proved otherwise. Kennedy snapped back, "I will tell you what, Senator, I will put my mailbag against your mailbag any day." Secretary Kennedy has no medical or scientific training. His scientific advisers represent a fringe minority. Kennedy may have a MAHA base, but he does not have the support of the medical community. Defend Public Health has led their largest [campaign](#) to date to prove this.

WHY IS THIS A WHOPPER?

In January 2025, [Defend Public Health](#) organized a letter opposing Kennedy's nomination with 700 institutional signers and 3,500 individual public-health workers. The [Committee to Protect Healthcare](#) submitted a similar letter signed by 22,000 physicians. Seventy-seven [Nobel laureates](#) also urged Congress to block his appointment. In contrast, [MAHA Action](#) produced only 800 [signatures](#). These letters show that even before Kennedy took office, health professionals were 20 times more likely to publicly oppose him than support him.

Once Kennedy assumed office, opposition grew. In April, senior public-health leaders formed a new [independent group](#) to evaluate vaccine data, anticipating political interference. That fear became reality in June, when Kennedy abruptly removed the experts who advise the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on vaccine recommendations and replaced them with unqualified allies. Professional societies sounded the alarm. The American Medical Association ([AMA](#)) asked Congress to launch an investigation, and the American Academy of Pediatrics [boycotted](#) the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) meeting in protest. With Kennedy's new antivaccine majority, ACIP restricted COVID-19 vaccine access and withdrew support for vaccines using thimerosal. Five major medical societies—representing more than 250,000 professionals—[sued](#) Kennedy for arbitrarily undermining a proven, science-based vaccine schedule.

The groups representing doctors who take care of pregnant people and children continued recommending [COVID-19 vaccination](#), defying the new CDC guidance. [Health insurers](#)

reassured the public they would continue to cover COVID-19 vaccines through 2026 even though federal requirements had been removed.

States have also begun [delinking](#) from the CDC due to Kennedy's abandonment of evidence-based public health guidance. Twenty-six states have passed measures to ensure COVID-19 vaccines remain accessible. Fifteen states and territories are coordinating policy through a [Governors Public Health Alliance](#). Fourteen states representing over 120 million Americans are forging regional health partnerships independent of federal leadership through the [West Coast Health Alliance](#) and the [Northeast Public Health Cooperative](#).

In September, just before Kennedy's Senate testimony, ten former [CDC Directors](#) wrote in the New York Times that RFK Jr.'s actions are "unacceptable" and "unlike anything we had ever seen at the agency and unlike anything our country had ever experienced." Six former [Surgeon Generals](#) called his leadership a "profound, immediate, and unprecedented threat." Twenty professional medical and scientific [organizations](#) called for his resignation, accusing him of "putting lives at risk by disregarding decades of lifesaving science."

Following Kennedy's testimony, DPH initiated a national campaign to fill Senator Wyden's mail bag with postcards from healthcare workers and scientists. Postcards are coming to [Senator Wyden's office](#) from nearly all fifty states, sending the clear message that scientists, doctors and others across the country do not support Kennedy, his policies and his actions.

WHY IT MATTERS:

Many in the medical community shared Kennedy's stated goal of reducing chronic disease. But instead of working with experts, he relies on fringe voices who are critics, not contributors, to scientific research. He has produced no credible evidence supporting his claims that vaccines or food additives cause chronic illness. Real progress on diabetes, cancer, neurodegenerative disease, and cardiovascular disease requires collaboration, not confrontation.

Kennedy obscures the lack of scientific support by attacking mainstream medical organizations and claiming they conceal "the truth." Despite his role in government, he portrays himself as an outsider battling corrupt institutions, while simultaneously weakening them from within.

The consequences are already visible: less access to vaccines, less outbreak information, and less transparency in federal health decision-making. His policies are neither grounded in science nor supported by the medical community. Instead, resistance from medical professionals has intensified. National organizations and state governments warn that Kennedy's actions are dismantling public-health infrastructure, forcing states to build parallel systems to protect their residents.

States may now be America's last line of defense against federal public-health collapse.

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