

PROTECT OUR CARE

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Rep. Arvind Venkat, MD Joins Protect Our Care Pennsylvania to Highlight How RFK Jr. is a Threat to American Health Care



Watch the event [here](#)

[Philadelphia, PA] – Today, Representative Arvind Venkat, MD joined Protect Our Care Pennsylvania to sound the alarm on Donald Trump’s nomination of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary. If RFK Jr. is confirmed, it will put Pennsylvanians lives at risk and jeopardize critical programs like the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, and Medicaid. RFK Jr. is deeply unqualified to serve in this position as he has no leadership qualifications in any role in public health or a government agency. Additionally, his fringe views on vaccines and his disregard of science and public health makes him a danger to the American people.

As HHS Secretary, RFK Jr.'s sole focus will be pushing these radical policies that will undermine decades of progress to lower health care costs, conduct research on life-saving cures for diseases, and keep Pennsylvanians healthy. Pennsylvanians deserve a leader at HHS who believes in science, the efficacy of vaccines, and who is committed to strengthening and expanding health care policies enacted since the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Speakers discussed how RFK Jr.'s leadership will affect nearly every Pennsylvanian, as he will prioritize his own interests and bolster MAGA efforts to increase health care costs by slashing Medicaid, repealing the ACA, and banning Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices.

“At a very fundamental level, RFK Jr. stands against the first responsibility of this position: to protect the health of our country. Someone who has no significant administrative experience, in addition to his conspiracy theories on proven public health interventions, endangers the lives of our fellow Pennsylvanians.” **said Rep. Arvind Venkat.** “I strongly urge Senator-elect McCormick along with Senator Fetterman to not vote for Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to serve as Secretary for Health and Human Services. This is not simply differences in the health care agenda that the incoming Trump administration may have – this goes to whether we will protect our fellow Americans or not.”

“We know that RFK Jr. is a leading anti-vaccine voice both in the United States and throughout the world, and this goes beyond “vaccine scepticism” into outright hostility. We know there have already been deadly real-world consequences to his rhetoric, with his 2019 visit to Samoa, in coordination with local anti-vaccine activists, where he widely promoted how the measles vaccine was ‘unsafe’. A few months later, a measles outbreak killed 83 people, mostly infants and children” **said Research Director Rebecca Parks of Protect Our Care.** “RFK has been clear in telling us what he plans to do if he’s confirmed as HHS Secretary – that’s to dismantle our public health system...though, we don’t know anything about his thoughts or intentions on these vital programs [ACA, Medicare and Medicaid], and of course there’s nothing in his background that would suggest that he is qualified or prepared to competently manage the healthcare for 60 million people.”

“There used to be a time where the rule was, ‘you’re entitled to your opinions, but not your own facts’. It seems we are re-entering a ‘post-factual’ world with the Trump administration, and there are some, like RFK Jr., who take it further than others.” **said Protect Our Care Pennsylvania Director, Michael Berman.** “Equally troubling, is that Senator-elect Dave McCormick has so far remained silent on this nomination. By failing to oppose RFK Jr., McCormick would be complicit in advancing a public health agenda rooted in pseudoscience and conspiracy theories. Pennsylvanians deserve leadership that will stand up for facts and science, not enable figures who actively undermine them.”

You can view the full event [here](#), and learn more about how RFK Jr. is a threat to health care [here](#).

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