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## State Nurses' Associations Raise Alarm Over Reports of Potential Dismissal of USPSTF Members

A coalition of 17 state nurses' associations express profound concerns regarding recent [reports](#) that U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. is considering the removal of all current members of the non-partisan United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF). These reports accompanied the last-minute [cancellation](#) of the USPSTF July meeting. A similar approach was taken by this administration with the previous members of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). While HHS has publicly stated that no final decision has been made regarding the USPSTF composition, we take this opportunity to proactively reaffirm our strong support of this vital public health institution.

### **The USPSTF is a cornerstone of evidence-based preventive health in the United States.**

Comprising independent experts in prevention and evidence-based health, the Task Force develops recommendations on clinical preventive services such as screenings, counseling services, and preventive medications. In addition to providing critically important guidance, its recommendations directly shape coverage mandates under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), ensuring that millions of Americans have access to proven preventive care without the barriers of out-of-pocket expenses.

"Regardless of demographic background or political preference, **preventive care saves lives and reduces long-term health costs**," said Justin Gill, DNP, APRN, RN, a family nurse practitioner and Washington State Nurses Association president. "The USPSTF plays a crucial role in guiding these efforts through science, not politics. Any move to dismantle it or to replace its members for ideological reasons threatens the health and well-being of communities nationwide."

This nursing coalition stands firmly in support of the USPSTF and its mission. The politicization of independent, evidence-based institutions undermines trust in public health and jeopardizes access to care. We strongly urge the HHS to preserve the independence and credibility of the USPSTF by keeping the group's membership intact and allow future meetings to proceed.

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