INDIANA IMMUNIZATION COALITION
#VACCINATEINDIANA

The Indiana Immunization Coalition is deeply concerned by the advisory panel's vote to delay the recommended start of hepatitis B vaccination for newborns, a reversal of 30 years of evidence-based policy that has dramatically reduced hepatitis B infections across the United States. We are equally troubled by the statements made during the meeting that mischaracterized the safety and monitoring of childhood vaccines.

During the meeting, some ACIP members and senior officials of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) suggested that the hepatitis B birth dose and other childhood vaccines are unsafe and insufficiently monitored for adverse events. This is unequivocally false. Extensive research consistently demonstrates that the benefits of vaccines far outweigh the risks, and the United States maintains multiple, interconnected, robust safety-monitoring systems that continuously evaluate, detect, and respond to potential safety signals.

The decision-making process displayed today, relying on cherry-picked data, rushing votes without transparency, and failing to thoroughly evaluate the whole evidence base, is dangerous for the health of American children. These actions will create confusion among the public and within the provider community, sow distrust, and increase vaccine hesitancy at a time when confidence in public health is already fragile.

This confusion has real consequences: it can increase vaccine hesitancy, reduce vaccination coverage, and ultimately lead to preventable disease, including serious outcomes such as liver cancer and premature death from chronic hepatitis B.

We respectfully urge national policymakers to revisit this recommendation and carefully consider the extensive evidence supporting long-standing, science-based guidance that has effectively protected children from hepatitis B for decades.