

August 12, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

On behalf of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), I write to voice our concern regarding the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) decision to terminate all 22 of the agency's mRNA vaccine development activities under the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). This decision will have devastating consequences for scientific innovation, affecting nearly \$500 million in contracts and proposals, and impact the United States's ability to respond to future public health threats.

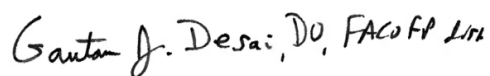
ACOFP is the professional organization representing more than 26,000 practicing osteopathic family physicians, residents, and students throughout the United States who are deeply committed to advancing our nation's health by improving health care delivery and outcomes and ensuring that patients have access to high-quality care.

We are concerned that the decision to terminate federal investments in mRNA vaccine research will have adverse consequences for the United States, including our ability to respond to future pandemics and public health emergencies (PHEs), which could put millions of lives at risk. Such a decision also could result in the United States falling behind in scientific innovation that is critical to ensuring the safety of the public.

Research funding plays a critical role in establishing vaccines and other tools that primary care providers use to treat their patients. On the frontlines of health care, osteopathic family physicians see firsthand the importance of vaccines in protecting patients from life-threatening illnesses and diseases. We urge the Administration to not decrease investment in research and programs that are critical both to responding to public health threats and advancing scientific innovation.

Should you need any additional information or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact ACOFP at advocacy@acofp.org or (847) 952-5100.

Sincerely,



Gautam J. Desai, DO, FAcOFP *dist.*
ACOFP, President