

November 10, 2025

The Honorable Bill Cassidy  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and  
Pensions  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brett Guthrie  
Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and  
Pensions  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Cassidy, Ranking Member Sanders, Chair Guthrie, and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) whose members are general internal medicine physicians who rely on evidence-based recommendations to improve the health of all Americans, we urge you to protect the integrity of the United States Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF). Since its inception, the Task Force has used transparent, evidence-based processes to provide crucial recommendations for primary care clinicians to offer life-saving preventative services. SGIM is concerned by multiple cancelations of USPSTF's scheduled meetings, preventing them from considering new evidence to update and revise their recommendations. Given its importance to physicians and patients, **we ask the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to exercise your oversight responsibilities to ensure the Task Force convenes and to monitor and respond to any potential changes to USPSTF's membership, methodologies, or priorities.**

Created in 1984, USPSTF has served as a scientifically independent volunteer panel of experts in prevention, tasked with developing evidence-based recommendations to help clinicians in the practice of preventive medicine. The Task Force's recommendations have consistently improved access to effective preventative services while limiting the use of services with lesser evidence bases. The services recommended are wide-ranging and life-saving. It has included cancer screening, screenings for youth anxiety and depression, diabetes and cardiovascular disease prevention, childhood vision screenings, maternal health improvement, substance use and overdose prevention, and other important interventions.

Clinicians rely on research focused on scientifically valid, measurable health outcomes to prevent diseases and improve the health of their patients. USPSTF uses transparent methods to evaluate and synthesize existing literature, identify gaps, and develop trusted recommendations that are consistently used by primary care physicians.

Not only do USPSTF's recommendations improve the practice of medicine, but they have a direct impact on access to preventative services and the financial wellbeing of the American public. Since 2010, most insurers have been required by statute to cover all preventative services with an "A" or "B" grade without cost-sharing. This has reduced out-of-pocket spending for patients and led to greater usage of highly-effective and high-value



preventative services to help Americans avoid illness, identify and treat chronic conditions, prevent cancer or lead to earlier detection, and improve health.

USPSTF members, who are nationally recognized experts in primary care and prevention, are selected through a transparent, public nomination process. They serve as volunteers who are committed to ensuring the Task Force's recommendations improve the lives of all Americans. Members are thoroughly vetted for conflicts of interest, and they are limited to one four-year term. Importantly, terms are staggered to ensure a continuity of expertise.

As Congress monitors any potential changes to the composition or role of USPSTF, it is imperative that many of the features that have made the Task Force successful remain in place. At a minimum, these features must continue:

- Members of the Task Force must be experienced primary care clinicians from across the country, ensuring a wide range of expertise and geographic representation;
- Members must be thoroughly vetted for conflicts of interest;
- Rotation of membership must be staggered to ensure continuity of expertise; and
- Processes for membership selection, research methodologies, and topic area selection must continue to be transparent and involve input from the public.

SGIM and the physicians we represent urge you to continue supporting the USPSTF and to ensure it remains a trusted, non-partisan body charged with developing evidence-based recommendations to help prevent chronic and life-threatening diseases and improve the health of all Americans.

For additional information or questions, please contact Erika Miller at [emiller@dc-crd.com](mailto:emiller@dc-crd.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark D. Schwartz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark D. Schwartz, MD, FACP  
President-Elect, Society of General Internal Medicine