



Robert Weiner



Griffin Cobb

Exclusive to OpEdNews:

OpEdNews Op Eds 3/1/2026 at 11:10 AM EST H2'ed 3/1/26

## Surgeon General Nominee Quacks on Measles, and Other Vaccines

By: Robert Weiner and Griffin Cobb

Casey Means testified February 25 before the key Senate Health Committee who is assessing her ability to become the Surgeon General. Means' medical license lapsed in 2024. She said to Senator Andy Kim (NJ), "It would not make sense to reactivate" her license. That must be news to physician Bill Cassidy (LA), the committee's chair. Means has constantly made statements bashing the existing children's vaccination schedule, stating [last year](#), they are "causing health declines in vulnerable children."

In addition, she made a statement on her personal [X account](#) from 2024 about the Hepatitis B shot for newborns, calling it "absolute insanity and should make every American pause and question the healthcare system's mandates."

However, at the hearing, means contradicted her past statements about vaccines, stating, "I believe vaccines save lives," when asked by Chairman Cassidy about whether she would encourage the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine for children.

We learned the hard way from nominee-designates' positions on choice, January 6 pardons, and other issues that Senate hearings' confirmation statements need to be hammered into reality. For example, when Pam Bondi, the now-Attorney General, stated at her meeting before the Senate Judiciary Committee, "I will look at each case and advise on a case-by-case basis" I condemn any violence on a law enforcement officer in this country," she ended up pardoning every insurrectionist anyway -- all 1500+, including the most violent ones sentenced after being found guilty of assaulting the police.

Means seems to be just babbling to get confirmed by the Senate Committee. When she finally gets the job, she will go back to the anti-vaccine rhetoric that she has stated and shown she believed her whole life in support of ally Robert F Kennedy Jr., now Health Secretary.

This is the last thing that our country needs as preventable disease continues to spread throughout the nation.

Just two months into the new year, there have already been [979 cases of measles](#) alone in South Carolina, with 91 people in quarantine and one in isolation as of February 24, along with seven [new outbreaks reported nationwide in 2026](#). These numbers are staggering and continue to rise by the day. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) continues to track the rise in cases across the nation, highlighting states where cases are prevalent, such as Utah with 117 and Florida with 64 cases.

Since when does the USA, which prizes its health science and research as the best in the world, align itself with a science denier like Robert F Kennedy Jr. and nominate someone like Casey Means for Surgeon General whose views contradict the consensus of public health experts and have sparked an outbreak of a preventable disease?

[According to The Washington Post](#), career vaccine experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were "blindsided" when senior officials under Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. unilaterally overhauled the childhood immunization schedule. The new schedule now only advises vaccination against 11 diseases, down from the original 17. The major problem the CDC is facing is that this newly adapted schedule is being published with no scientific backing, and [its name is stamped on it nationwide](#).

Under the Trump administration, our children, family, and friends have been put in danger as the new measles outbreak sweeps nationwide, infecting our communities. Children across the nation are being kept out of the schools and put into quarantine because of this nonsense that Donald Trump is supporting.

CDC data show national MMR vaccination coverage among kindergarteners fell from about 95.2 % in 2019-20 to around 92.5 % in 2024-25. This may seem like a small statistical change, but it is dropping below the 95% herd-immunity threshold and leaving more communities vulnerable to measles outbreak.

Before these policy shifts, measles cases remained contained and non-fatal. [In 2022](#), there were only 121 cases of measles with no deaths reported, in 2023, there were only 59 cases with no deaths, and in 2024, there were 285 cases, still without a single reported death. This pattern changed dramatically following the Trump administration's policy shifts. In 2025 alone, the US reported 2,267 measles cases and three confirmed deaths.

When asked about immunizations in our country, in an interview with Fox News, RFK Jr. labeled himself as a "freedom-of-choice person," which is absurd when it comes to the safety of our children, and the consequences of weakening measles vaccine mandates become clear when examining the data year by year. If this continues, the United States risks seeing more preventable deaths from a disease that was once effectively controlled through widespread immunization.

Anti-immunization rhetoric has always been a problem in our country but reached an all-time high during the COVID-19 Pandemic where major news outlets went forth with heavy agenda-setting on its effectiveness and safety.

Our country is now faced with a major problem as this rhetoric is not just in news sources, but in the Executive Office.

To protect our nation, every professional can and should file an amicus on the [current lawsuit against](#) RFK JR.'s no-evidence CDC anti-vaccine policy. Across the nation, many states are forming their own multi-stated scientific alliances, calling the public to stay away from the new CDC guidelines and stick to the old guidelines, but this is simply not enough.

Everything possible must be done to end anti-immunization rhetoric, suppress the measles outbreak that our country is dealing with, and prevent future outbreaks of diseases that have not been a medical threat for decades.

It's not just about measles either. The Wall Street Journal stated that RFK's leader of the Food and Drug Administration's vaccine division (Vinay Prasad) rejected [Moderna's](#) mRNA flu vaccine without even a cursory review. "This is arbitrary government at its worst." The Journal editorial board asks, [Does the White House know the harm he's doing to public health?](#)

It's an excellent question.

*Robert Weiner is the former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care, and the House Aging Committee, under Chairman Claude Pepper. Weiner also served as Public Affairs Director under White House Drug Czar/ Four-Star General Barry McCaffrey, former spokesman for the House Narcotics Committee under Chairman Charles Rangel, and spokesman for the House Government Operations Committee under Chairman John Conyers.*

*Griffin Cobb is Senior Policy Analyst at Robert Weiner Associates and the Solutions for Change Foundation.*