

September 30, 2026

Administrator Lee Zeldin
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Sent via email

RE: Former CHPAC members urge EPA to restore Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee

Dear Administrator Zeldin:

As former members of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) and subject matter experts, we write to express our grave concern regarding the current vacancies and effective suspension of CHPAC activities.¹ **We urge you to establish a CHPAC that has scientifically credible, varied, and balanced expert viewpoints so it is capable of continuing the important mission to protect children's health.**

For nearly three decades, CHPAC has been instrumental in protecting children's environmental health and well-being. As independent researchers, academic experts, health care providers, scientists from businesses concerned with children's safety, and public servants in state and Tribal governments who work in the public interest, this expert-led and policy-oriented volunteer network is responsible for providing EPA with evidence-based recommendations to address children's health. Since its creation, CHPAC has advised EPA officials by providing evidence-based recommendations over 100 times.² These recommendations have helped the agency to create healthy home and school environments and protect kids from pesticides, lead poisoning, and other chemicals of concern that contribute to children's asthma, abnormal development, learning disabilities, obesity, and cancer.

For example, the most recent CHPAC letter detailed how children are uniquely susceptible to chemicals in plastics – including pesticides, bisphenols, phthalates, and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, or PFAS – and made recommendations for improving protections for children.³ It is

¹ As of this letter, the committee has not met in over a year. While nominations were requested in August 2025, the previous committee's terms concluded in February 2026 without the appointment of successors. **EPA indicated it would fill the CHPAC's vacancies by March 1st, but that has yet to happen.**

² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC) Comment Letters and Meeting Materials" page (accessed on August 13, 2026). <https://www.epa.gov/children/childrens-health-protection-advisory-committee-chpac-comment-letters-and-meeting-materials>

³ Letter to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin from the CHPAC regarding plastics and children's health (November 7, 2025). <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OA-2025-0261-0029>

critical to identify and take action on risk factors for childhood cancer and other childhood diseases that are increasing, such as the increase of annual incidence of childhood cancer over the last 30 years.⁴ We remain eager to understand EPA's plans to address these issues and to assist the agency in our shared priority of lowering rates of childhood cancer.

CHPAC is a key to achieving “Make America Healthy Again” goals

The current administration developed the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission to protect children from environmental hazards⁵ and committed EPA to specific actions in the Commission's “Make Our Children Healthy Again” (MOCHA) Strategy, including that “EPA will direct [CHPAC] to focus on advancing research and communication recommendations that align with the implementation of the MAHA strategy elements.”⁶ This includes protecting children from toxic exposures linked to chronic illnesses that afflict “over 40% of the roughly 73 million children (aged 0-17) in the United States.”⁷ A fully functional and active CHPAC is essential to ensuring that EPA continues to receive the expert guidance needed to protect the health of children in the US in all regulatory and programmatic work conducted by EPA.

Additionally, as EPA Administrator and co-chair of the President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children,⁸ we urge you to develop strategies to protect children's health – including policy recommendations, public outreach efforts, and research priorities. These outcomes closely align with CHPAC's role of providing EPA with advice on children's environmental health, policy, technical issues, and public communication.⁹ Given this alignment, we would appreciate clarification on how EPA plans to fulfill these responsibilities while CHPAC currently has no active members.

Independent expert advice

We also urge you to establish a CHPAC that fulfills the obligations outlined within the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which requires “the membership of the advisory committee to be fairly balanced in terms of the points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the advisory committee” and “to assure that the advice and recommendations of the advisory committee will not be inappropriately influenced by the appointing authority or by any special

⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, America's Children and the Environment, “Health - Childhood Cancer” page (2022). <https://www.epa.gov/americaschildrenenvironment/health-childhood-cancer>

⁵ Exec. Order No. 14212, 90 Fed. Reg. 9833 (February 19, 2025).

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/02/19/2025-02871/establishing-the-presidents-make-america-healthy-again-commission>

⁶ The Make Our Children Healthy Again Strategy Report (September 9, 2025).

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/The-MAHA-Strategy-WH.pdf>

⁷ The MAHA Report - Make Our Children Healthy Again Assessment (May 22, 2025).

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/MAHA-Report-The-White-House.pdf>

⁸ Exec. Order No. 13045, 62 Fed. Reg. 19885, (April 23, 1997).

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1997-04-23/pdf/97-10695.pdf>

⁹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee Charter (August 13, 2025 to August 13, 2027).

<https://www.facadatabase.gov/FACA/s/FACACommittee/a10t0000001gzkVAAQ/com000075>

interest, but will instead be the result of the advisory committee's independent judgment.”¹⁰ This means that CHPAC’s members should have the expertise needed to evaluate the best available science and the commitment to sound evidence in developing recommendations on the health impacts of chemicals like pesticides, PFAS, plastics, and legacy toxicants.

Protecting children’s health requires the continuous, science-driven advisory support that only a fully seated CHPAC can provide. Previous investments by the federal government and EPA into understanding and supporting children’s health protection have led to major achievements in protecting children, for example, demonstrating that policies that reduced pesticide use lowered children’s exposures and improved their health outcomes.¹¹ EPA has the responsibility to facilitate the work of the CHPAC and provide them with charges to conduct research and provide advice to safeguard the future of our children.

We respectfully request that EPA provide the following:

- (1) a definitive timeline for the announcement and convening of the new CHPAC membership to ensure proper governance and the restoration of scientific integrity;
- (2) a written response to the November 2025 Plastics Charge Response Letter;
- (3) a meeting between EPA leadership and health experts to discuss the integration of CHPAC’s proactive goals with the current MOCHA strategy.

We request responses to these items by November 1, 2026. A copy of the [November 2025 plastics letter](#) is attached for your reference.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
Natural Resources Defense Council
Healthy Schools Network
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Break the Cycle of Health Disparities, Inc.
Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

¹⁰ Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. No. 92-463, 86 Stat. 770 (1972).

¹¹U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development Report: A Decade of Children's Environmental Health Research: Highlights from EPA's Science to Achieve Results Program (December 2007).
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/decade-of-childrens-health-full-report.pdf>

Unleaded Kids
National Collaborative for Health Equity
Society for Public Health Education
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* Signed in personal capacity

cc: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services