



AVAC Statement on the Vaccine Injury Compensation Modernization Act

September 3, 2026

The Adult Vaccine Access Coalition (AVAC) commends Representatives Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) and Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) for their efforts to modernize the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), in order to reduce claims processing delays, and ensure adult vaccines are appropriately covered by a fair, transparent compensation system.

Vaccines save lives. In the rare instances when a vaccine-related injury does occur, the person affected deserves a fair and timely path to compensation. Since 1986, the VICP has provided that path, offering a no-fault alternative to litigation that protects injured individuals and families while giving health care professionals and manufacturers greater certainty and helping sustain a stable vaccine supply.

The program, however, has not kept pace with how adults are vaccinated today. The VICP also faces processing delays and a case backlog, and its compensation limits have remained unchanged for decades.

The Vaccine Injury Compensation Modernization Act (H.R. 9672) takes steps to address these gaps and expands eligibility to the vaccines the CDC recommends for adults. To keep program coverage current, it requires the Vaccine Injury Table to be updated within six months of a new CDC recommendation. The bill also helps address the claims backlog by increasing the number of Special Masters, and it raises compensation limits and extends the deadline to file a claim from three to five years.

AVAC deeply appreciates the bipartisan work of Representatives Smucker and Doggett, and looks forward to supporting efforts to improve this program. Modernizing the VICP protects individuals and families, strengthens public confidence in vaccines, and preserves access to recommended vaccines across the life course.