

**Ranking Member Raul Ruiz, M.D.**

Closing Statement

Hearing on “Assessing America’s Vaccine Safety Systems, Part 2”

March 21, 2024

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you again to the witnesses for your participation in today’s hearing.

As we saw during the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccines serve as an essential tool to protect the public’s health during a time of crisis.

Equally as important is the vital role vaccines play in keeping the threat of deadly diseases at bay and preventing outbreaks before they can even occur.

Our work to enhance our nation’s pandemic preparedness is fortified by efforts to boost vaccine confidence—and we best serve the public when we center this work in fact and put the public’s health front and center.

As we discussed over the course of this hearing, we are at a critical moment as vaccine confidence in our nation approaches an all-time low.

So as a physician, I hope that we can work together to bolster our nation’s surveillance systems and pursue necessary reforms that strengthen our nation’s compensation programs to ensure people can get the care and compensation they need.

Rather than manufacturing distrust in our safety systems and public health as a whole, I hope that this Select Subcommittee can foster that collaboration going forward and ultimately help our nation better prepare for the future.

I yield back.