



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Andrew Gounardes

Sen. Gounardes Introduces Bill to Ensure Insurance Providers Continue Covering the COVID-19 Vaccine

ANDREW GOUNARDES June 4, 2025

| ISSUE: [ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE](#), [HEALTHCARE](#), [COMBATING COVID-19](#), [PUBLIC HEALTH](#)



The bill comes after President Trump and Health Secretary RFK Jr.'s attempt to limit access to vaccines, putting public health at risk

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 4, 2025

Brooklyn, NY — New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes introduced new legislation today that would mandate health insurance coverage for the COVID-19 vaccine, just days after the federal government put public health at risk by attempting to limit vaccine access

for children and pregnant women.

Senator Gounardes' new bill ([S.8334](#)) comes in response to Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s [announcement](#) that COVID-19 shots would be removed from the federal immunization schedule for children, only for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to issue advice seemingly countering that policy. The Health Secretary's statements in contradiction of his own department risk causing inconsistencies in vaccine availability and coverage across states.

By requiring insurance reimbursement for COVID-19 immunizations—as the state [already does](#) for vaccines protecting against flu, polio, measles, and other diseases—Senator Gounardes' proposal would help New York preempt potential gaps caused by reduced federal support, ensuring continuity in vaccine access and public health initiatives. The proposal would also bolster public confidence in vaccination programs by sending a clear message about the state's trust in the safety and efficacy of vaccines, countering misinformation and hesitancy that could arise from changing federal guidelines.

Despite the U.S. Health Secretary's misguided directive, COVID-19 continues to pose significant health risks. Children, while generally experiencing milder symptoms, can still suffer severe outcomes and contribute to community transmission. Pregnant individuals face [increased risks](#) of complications from COVID-19, and vaccination has been shown to confer protective benefits to both mothers and infants. State-level legislation ensuring vaccine coverage reinforces New York's proactive approach to mitigating these risks and protecting vulnerable populations.

"RFK Jr. [said](#) himself that no one should take his medical advice, and I agree," said **State Senator Andrew Gounardes**. "The Trump administration may continue to spew misinformation and confusing, contradictory advice, but New York should stay laser-focused

on protecting the health of our children, expectant parents and everyone else in our community. My bill ensures everyone who wants the COVID-19 vaccine can get it.”

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RELATED LEGISLATION

2025-S8334

-
- Introduced
 - - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate
 - - On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ◦ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
-

Relates to insurance reimbursement for vaccination for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2

June 03, 2025

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **Andrew Gounardes**

Do you support this bill?