

Webisode 57DHXQ July 31 2025 Turmoil at the Trump FDA is not good for Public Health

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1 Turmoil at the FDA Prasad Out What is Next? With guest Endpoints News FDA reporter Drew Armstrong [RAWSEP View](#) Controversial Trump appointed FDA vaccine chief departs agency after less than 3 months Polarizing vaccine chief of the Food and Drug Administration FDA is leaving the agency after a brief tenure that drew the ire of biotech executives patient groups and conservative allies of President Donald Trump [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization](#) In Medicine Newsletter July 31 2025 Notes on a recording from the Jeremy Faust MD Substack Live July 30 2025 Today Drew Armstrong the Executive Editor at Endpoints News joined me in The Lounge of Doctors to break down recent news at the FDA Our interview was promoted by the Drew Armstrong scoop on the abrupt departure of Doctor Vinay Prasad the FDA Chief Scientific Officer and Director of the Center for Biologics Research and Evaluation which position had made Prasad the top vaccine official in America We covered the brief but busy and contentious tenure of Prasad including The Sarepta controversy and how muscular dystrophy drug politics collided with FDA leadership and a right wing hobby horse What happens when FDA scientists disagree with FDA leadership on key decisions This is not new but the frequency and intensity of these debates escalated dramatically upon the Prasad arrival at the agency We covered how these debates often play out and what made the last several months different Repeatedly we covered how some unexpected FDA decisions for example some unexpected rejections in the last few weeks tanked stock prices overnight Whether the FDA is drifting toward rigid evidence standards or more libertarian style deregulation The increasing politicization of the FDA Again not entirely new What is next for the FDA Will Commissioner Dr Marty Makary promote someone from within the FDA to replace Prasad in an effort to calm the waters? Our conversation was a deep dive into how politics science and industry have begun to intersect in new ways at the FDA The future of drugs and medical devices is on the line...so this conversation felt like an important one It was great to have the Drew Armstrong expertise earned from years of dogged coverage of this beat I am sure you will agree that he was a fantastic guest

2 Trump Deals With Biggest Trade Partners Remain Elusive as Tariff Deadline Looms [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization](#) The New York Times July 31 2025 Trump Tariffs Where Things Stand Tariffs deadline A day before his deadline for countries to agree to trade deals or face heavy tariffs President Trump said on Thursday that it would be very hard to make a deal with Canada the second largest trading partner of the United States Despite a flurry of announcements this week there is also still no agreement with Mexico the biggest trading partner of America Brazil conflict Trump applied 50 percent tariffs to products from Brazil on Wednesday and imposed sanctions on the Supreme Court justice overseeing the criminal case against former President Jair Bolsonaro escalating the diplomatic crisis between the two most populous nations in the Western

Hemisphere Trade announcements The United States announced a trade deal with South Korea on Wednesday that would lower its tariff to 15 percent from 25 percent mirroring the deal struck with Japan last week Trump said South Korea would invest 350 billion dollars in the United States Hours earlier Trump said imports from India would be subject to a 25 percent tariff as of Friday if a deal is not reached

3 The family of Virginia Giuffre Responds to the Trump Claim That Epstein Stole Her [RAWSEP View](#)
The family of Virginia Giuffre objects to their relative being described as a thing to be trafficked The Trump wording indicates that is how Trump viewed Virginia Giuffre What were the majority of American voters thinking when they elected Trump? Are the majority of American voters morally bankrupt and corrupt or do they aspire to be like their icon Trump? Did Trump think he could freely refer to Virginia Giuffre in debasing terms as if she was a slave to be stolen because she is deceased?

[From the article Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization](#) The New York Times July 31 2025 The family of Virginia Giuffre a woman who accused Jeffrey Epstein of sexually abusing her as a teenager released a statement on Wednesday night expressing outrage about the Trump recent remarks about her in which he confirmed an account that Epstein had hired her away from her job in the spa at Mar a Lago The Trump private club in Florida On Tuesday while answering questions from reporters Trump said that Epstein stole Giuffre from Mar a Lago while she was working there as a spa attendant Giuffre has long maintained that Ghislaine Maxwell the longtime associate of Epstein met her at the club and recruited her to serve as a masseuse for Epstein but [The Trump comments on Air Force One appeared to be the first time he had personally confirmed her story](#) Giuffre died by suicide in April and the statement of her family said that the Trump remarks raised questions about his knowledge of the crimes committed by Epstein and Maxwell Ghislaine Maxwell is currently serving a 20 year prison term for exploiting and abusing underage women Epstein died in jail while facing similar charges It was shocking to hear Trump invoke our sister and say that he was aware that Virginia had been stolen from Mar a Lago the family said It makes us ask if he was aware of the criminal actions of Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell especially given his statement two years later that his good friend Jeffrey likes women on the younger side no doubt about it We and the public are asking for answers survivors deserve this The statement of the family came just days after Maxwell and her lawyer met with Todd Blanche the deputy attorney general and one of the Trump former defense lawyers to discuss what she knew about the case The extraordinary meeting between the Number 2 official in the Trump Justice Department and a convicted sex trafficker took place amid a firestorm of criticism from some of the Trump supporters who have been pressuring the president to release more information about the investigation and prosecution of Epstein The family of Giuffre criticized the meeting warning that Maxwell has a long history of lying about the case If our sister could speak today she would be most angered by the fact that the government is listening to a known perjurer they said A woman who repeatedly lied under oath and will continue to do so as long as it benefits her position The Trump remarks on Air Force One elaborated on his claim a day earlier that he had blacklisted Epstein from Mar a Lago because he had hired away some of the Trump employees White House aides had previously said that Trump barred Epstein from the club for being a creep

4 Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Wednesday that the so called Republicans created for children in their tax and spending bill are a back door for privatizing Social Security [Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization](#) The New York Times July 30 2025 In making the comments Bessent ventured onto what many consider the third rail of politics by

suggesting that the accounts could be a step toward withdrawing the role of the government in funding the safety net program for retirees which faces a longstanding financing shortfall

5 We are About to Find Out if Kennedy Is Serious in criticizing ultra processed foods starting with eliminating some food dyes [RAWSEP View](#) The author of this article is highly concerned about ultra processed foods The editor of RAWSEP is concerned most about RFK Junior delaying or eliminating access to updated COVID 19 vaccines this fall and in other extreme and overreaching ways weakening human health in the United States The editor of RAWSEP believes that food choices that Americans make are up to them and policing food choices is unnecessary in modern America and exceed the purview of the FDA not to mention the purview of HHS These HHS efforts are also a waste of taxpayer money The editor of RAWSEP does not care if RFK Junior is personally mentally serious or personally mentally frivolous but cares only if RFK Junior is stupidly concerned with above all food dyes which are not proven to cause cancer or cause other diseases if consumed moderately The editor of RAWSEP believes it is up to the individual how moderately that individual eats unless that person voluntarily enters a medical treatment program such as one for anorexia for instance

[From the article](#) Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization The New York Times July 31 2025 A month into his new job as health and human services secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr explained his view of the health woes of America to the Fox News host Sean Hannity We are poisoning ourselves and it is coming from principally these ultra processed foods Hannity nodded eagerly boasted about following a keto diet and rattled off statistics about obesity rates in the United States that he said really scare me Watching this was disorienting I had written about the Michelle Obama Let us Move! campaign to tackle childhood obesity and documented how much Republicans hated it and fought virtually every policy she pursued from healthier school meals to banning trans fats In 2010 Hannity railed against the effort Your America is turning into a nanny state thanks to the Obama administration efforts to rein in the junk food industry! he shouted on his show I do not want to be told how many calories are in my Big Mac meal Back then food was an easy partisan wedge But recently Democrats and Republicans have been converging on the need for more government intervention in the food supply According to a recent poll about two thirds of Democrats and Republicans now support banning processed foods from public school lunches This attitude gives the Trump administration a rare political opportunity to make once infeasible policy changes to improve our diets The U S D A has slashed more than 1 billion dollars in funding for sourcing healthy locally grown foods for schools and food banks The White House proposed deep cuts to fruit and vegetable benefits from WIC a program that serves low income pregnant women and young children which the MAHA commission report flagged as a way to increase produce consumption The Environmental Protection Agency has moved to relax or delay regulations aimed at keeping contaminants out of our air water and food Trump has cut thousands of jobs at the very agencies that work on chronic disease prevention and response The top nutrition researcher at the National Institutes of Health who focused on understanding ultra processed foods left the agency citing censorship Republicans in Congress meanwhile just passed in the reconciliation mega bill roughly trillion dollars in cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program which helps 42 million Americans buy groceries each month The bill also eliminated funding for SNAP nutrition education which includes cooking classes and other programs aimed at promoting healthier eating in low income communities If Kennedy and Trump now want to demonstrate they are serious about making Americans healthy they must lay out a policy agenda that would accomplish that goal and then use their grass roots army to get it done

6 Project 2025 The Republican MAGA plan from 2024 to today Substack Letters from an American Heather Cox Richardson [RAWSEP View](#) The Trump Brain Trust wants to harm you the average

middle income or poor American to fund tax breaks for the rich **From the article Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501C3 nonprofit organization** July 31 2025 On July 2 2024 just about a year ago president of the right wing Heritage Foundation Kevin Roberts told the listeners to the Steve Bannon War Room webcast We are going to win We are in the process of taking this country back Roberts pointed to the Supreme Court decision in Trump versus United States the day before giving the president absolute immunity for committing crimes while engaging in official acts Roberts was the man who organized Project 2025 the blueprint for a new kind of government dictated by a right wing strongman Creating that new government would require a president willing to act illegally stripping the secular language of civil rights from public life packing the government with loyalists ending the social safety net killing business regulations and purging American institutions of all but right wing ideologues When Americans learned about Project 2025 they hated it An NBC News poll from September 2024 showed that only 4% of Americans saw the project favorably Even among Republicans that number climbed only to 7% For those identifying as MAGA Republicans the number rose to just 9% So Trump and his campaign advisors denied that he had anything to do with the plan Thanks to billionaire Elon Musk at the Department of Government Efficiency and Russell Vought another author of Project 2025 at the Office of Management and Budget the administration illegally impounded funds slashing through funding for foreign aid cancer research benefits for veterans air traffic control staffing and so on claiming to be eliminating waste fraud and abuse That fight is ongoing But while it shrank government programs that helped ordinary people programs like the Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA as part of their claim to be returning power to the states the administration did not shrink the government itself Last week in order to obtain the approval of the Federal Communications Commission FCC of an 8 billion dollar merger between CBS parent company Paramount and Skydance Media Skydance agreed not to set up programs related to civil rights or diversity equity and inclusion and to produce unbiased journalism Federal Communications Commission chair Brendan Carr approved the merger then bragged on right wing media shows that CBS has agreed to put in place an internal political bias monitor who will report to the president of Paramount to make sure the news coverage by the channel is favorable to Trump and the right wing Last week after Columbia University agreed to pay 221 million dollars in exchange for the government restoring the 1.3 billion dollars in funding the administration had withheld The administration has worked to dismantle the regulations that protect Americans by using artificial intelligence to slash regulations in half by next January With the blessing of the Supreme Court Trump has claimed the power to fire the heads of independent agencies effectively giving him power over agencies created by Congress Yesterday the administration took its fight against public protections a leap further when the Environmental Protection Agency EPA proposed a new rule that would get rid of a rule in place since 2009 establishing on the basis of scientific evidence that the emission of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane warms the planet and thus endangers human life Most of the vehicle factory and power plant emissions standards currently in place come from this endangerment finding **EPA officials said they intend to argue that it is climate regulations rather than greenhouse gas emissions that cause the real harm to human health because they lead to higher prices and less consumer choice** Last night the Senate confirmed Bove to a federal judgeship with 50 Republicans voting in favor Forty seven Democrats voted no They were joined by Republicans Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska who said I do not think that somebody who has counseled other attorneys that you should ignore the law you should reject the law I do not think that that individual should be placed in a lifetime seat on the bench But Thom Tillis R NC voted in favor of the Bove confirmation illustrating that even those Republicans who have put distance between themselves and Trump are enabling the revolution in

our government Republicans in Congress have enabled the dismantling of the social safety net of the United States with dramatic cuts to Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program while also extending significant tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations Today Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told an audience at an event for the right wing media outlet Breitbart that the new Trump accounts established by the budget reconciliation bill are a backdoor for privatizing Social Security The unwillingness of Congress to stand against Trump shows most dramatically in its reluctance to reassert the power the Constitution gives to it and only to it over tariffs And now the growing scandal around President Donald J The Trump connections to late convicted sex predator Jeffrey Epstein shows that the MAGA movement is apparently willing to accept the sexual abuse of children in order to cement their worldview Yesterday Trump tried to cast himself as a sort of protector when he claimed that he turned against Epstein because Epstein stole people that worked for me When asked if those employees were young women Trump answered yes and that they were hired out of the spa he ran He said one of those girls was Virginia Giuffre who was sex trafficked as a teenager by Ghislaine Maxwell and died by suicide earlier this year Although The Trump timeline did not add up Giuffre left her job at Mar a Lago in 2000 and the friendship between the two men continued for several more years the story itself suggests what is on his mind Today a reporter asked Trump about those girls What did you think Epstein was stealing those women for? Today Dan Ruetenik of CBS News issued a detailed report on the video from outside the Epstein jail cell that the DOJ has released as proof he died by suicide A government source said that the released video is not raw footage confirming a report by Dhruv Mehrotra of Wired on July 15 and that it is two videos stitched together Ruetenik reported that the FBI the Bureau of Prisons and the DOJ inspector general all possess the longer video And perhaps there is also a story about the staying power of Project 2025 in the fact that this damning report dropped less than a week after Trump officials celebrated their control over CBS

6 Headlines The New York Times RFK Junior Dyes in Food Ultra Processed Food **RAWSEP View** Distractions costly to the American taxpayer to divert attention from RFK Junior delaying or stopping access to an updated COVID 19 vaccine for Fall 2025 **From the article headline** Opinion We are About to Find Out if Kennedy Is Serious about Ultra Processed Food The New York Times Texas Not a Damned Penny Texas Flood Survivors Look for Help The New York Times Texas Republican Redistricting of the State of Texas Opinion The High Road is Not Available to Us Texas Democrats Have Had Enough The New York Times Trump and Epstein Fallout Seth Meyers Says Trump Is not Doing Himself Any Favors The New York Times Trump Tariffs A Trade Deadline Frenzy and The Trump Push to Keep Control of Congress The New York Times Ahead of Trade Deadline Trump Threatens Canada for Backing Palestinian State The New York Times Murky Pledges of Investment Cast Shadow on The Trump Trade Deals The New York Times On Eve of Tariff Deadline The Trump Trade War Faces Key Court Test The New York Times The Tariffs Kicked In The Sky Did not Fall Were the Economists Wrong The New York Times Trump Is Trying to Rewrite Reality The New York Times President Criticizes Key Trade Partners as Tariff Deadline Looms The New York Times Trump and threats to the Federal Reserve Key Inflation Measure Rose in June Adding to Pressure on Fed The New York Times The Trump Fight With the Fed Will not End With Rate Cuts The New York Times Trump and threat to privatize Social Security Treasury Secretary Says Trump Accounts Could Pave Way to Privatizing Social Security The New York Times Germany Trump Tariffs Mercedes and Porsche Squeezed by U S Tariffs and Slowdown in China The New York Times Ukraine After Backlash Ukraine Votes to Restore Watchdog Powers