



June 1, 2026

The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz  
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 243  
24 Beacon St.  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Michlewitz and Committee Members,

We are writing to you in support of **H.2554, An Act Relative to Routine Childhood Immunizations**, which was recently reported favorably out of the House Committee on Health Care Financing. The aim of H.2554 is to ensure that Massachusetts vaccine recommendations should be based on sound scientific evidence and that its residents should be able to access immunizations and immunization data. The undersigned organizations respectfully request that the House Committee on Ways and Means **report out favorably H.2554, An Act Relative to Routine Childhood Immunizations**, which would remove the non-medical exemption from required school vaccines and enhance data collection and sharing to better track immunization rates.

H.2554 is supported by leading medical, public health, labor, education, and community organizations. Additionally, polling conducted statewide shows that Massachusetts voters and parents overwhelmingly support strong vaccine requirements and strengthening immunization reporting requirements. **70% of Massachusetts voters support H.2554's passage**, with support rising to **72%** after respondents considered various arguments for and against the legislation. Support for H.2554 was broadly consistent among voters from various demographic groups and areas of the state.

Major religious groups agree that immunization is part of society's moral duty to care for the greater common good. Even religious organizations in traditionally conservative areas take this stance, with some religious private schools setting their own strong vaccine requirements.

Recent data from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health indicate that use of the non-medical exemption continues to steadily increase. During the 2025-2026 school year, over a thousand kindergartners received non-medical exemptions from at least one vaccine—more than

in any previous year. Dozens of schools reported MMR immunization rates low enough to leave them vulnerable to outbreaks.

With measles cases already reported in Massachusetts this year, we must act now to prevent its spread. Eliminating non-medical exemptions is the most effective way to prevent outbreaks and ensure strong immunization rates.

We respectfully ask that the Committee report H.2554 out favorably. Thank you for your leadership and your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Katie Blair, JD, Director  
Massachusetts Families for Vaccines

Northe Saunders, President  
American Families for Vaccines

Jessica Tang, President  
American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts

Patti Wukovits and Alicia Stillman, Co-Executive Directors  
American Society for Meningitis Prevention

Azhar Majeed, Director of Government Affairs and Policy  
Center for Inquiry

Justin Pasquariello, Chief Executive Officer  
East Boston Social Centers

Alicia Stillman, Executive Director  
Emily Stillman Foundation

Ryan D. Jayne, Senior Policy Counsel  
Freedom From Religion Foundation Action Fund

Lisa Lemieux, President  
Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council

Matt Prentice, MPH, Director of Policy  
Immune Deficiency Foundation

Patti Wukovits, BSN, RN, AMB-BC, Executive Director  
Kimberly Coffey Foundation

Chloe Schwartz, MPH, Director, Maternal & Infant Health Initiative  
March of Dimes

David Cohen, Co-Chair  
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Manju Mahajan, MD, FAAFP, President  
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Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers

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Lauren Doctoroff, MD, MBA, Governor  
Hemal Sampat, MD & Sunny Kung, MD, Co-Chairs, Health and Public Policy Committee  
Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Physicians

Emily Dulong, Vice President, Government Advocacy and Public Policy  
Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association

Rebecca W. Brendel, MD, JD, President  
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Oami Amarasingham, JD, Deputy Director  
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Laura Packard, Founder  
Voices of Health Care Action