

Legislators and Members of the House,

House Bill 524-FN, which seeks to repeal the New Hampshire Vaccine Association (NHVA), presents significant public health and economic concerns. Here's why opposing the repeal is crucial:

**1. Threat to Public Health:**

The NHVA plays a pivotal role in ensuring that all children in New Hampshire, regardless of socioeconomic background, have access to necessary vaccines. This helps maintain high immunization rates and prevents outbreaks of dangerous, preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough.

**2. Cost Efficiency:**

The NHVA operates by pooling funds from health insurance providers, which reduces the financial burden on state budgets and individual families. By purchasing vaccines in bulk, the program achieves lower costs per dose, benefiting taxpayers and the healthcare system alike. Repealing the NHVA would likely shift costs to families and healthcare providers, making vaccination more expensive and potentially reducing uptake.

**3. Risk of Increased Healthcare Costs:**

If immunization rates drop due to decreased vaccine access, the state could face higher long-term healthcare costs from preventable disease outbreaks, hospitalizations, and medical treatments.

**4. Public Safety and Herd Immunity:**

Vaccinating children protects not just the individuals who receive the vaccines but the entire community, including vulnerable populations who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. Repealing the NHVA risks undermining this community protection.

**5. Equity Concerns:**

The NHVA ensures that children from low-income families receive vaccines at no cost. Eliminating this program disproportionately affects marginalized communities and exacerbates health disparities.

Maintaining the NHVA is essential to protecting public health, controlling healthcare costs, and ensuring equitable vaccine access for all children in New Hampshire. Repealing it would be a step backward for public health and fiscal responsibility.

Respectfully,  
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