

Opposition to HB 1584: An Act directing the department of health and human services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements and relative to the form of such exemptions:

HB 1584 is an unnecessary, confusing and potentially costly bill. A process currently exists that enables parents or guardians to exempt a child from vaccination requirements based on religious beliefs. HB 1584 would add complicating requirements for DHHS and create confusion for parents, guardians, providers and schools.

1. It is currently easy to find information about religious exemptions and to locate the form on the DHHS website (google "NH Vaccine Exemption").
2. Requiring specific language in a specific font on the DHHS website is an unprecedented act.
3. Creating a penalty for any officer, employee or agent of DHHS for material that may be missing the required language re: exemption, would require an extensive review and reprinting process taking valuable staff time away from providing services to Granite Staters during a time of fiscal constraint. The fiscal Note indicates that new part-time position will need to be created to handle this work.
4. Replacing the simple form (see below) with "any written and signed statement..." would make it impossible for schools to communicate appropriately to parents during an outbreak that might affect an unvaccinated child.
5. Governor Ayotte vetoed a similar bill last year, with the following veto message:
 - GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE REGARDING HOUSE BILL 358 Childhood immunizations play an important role in preventing the resurgence and spread of previously deadly diseases. While parents must be the final decision makers on what immunizations their child receives, the State already has an established process by which parents can claim a religious exemption, and I see no reason to change it. For this reason, I have vetoed House Bill 358. Respectfully submitted, Kelly A. Ayotte, Governor Date: July 15, 2025 358

I urge members of the House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee to vote to ITL this harmful and unnecessary bill.

Sincerely,

Hon. Polly K, Campion, MS, RN



New Hampshire Childcare/School Immunization Religious Exemption Form

Instructions:

Parent/ legal guardian or student (if the student is 18 years of age or older):

- Complete form, sign, and date.
- Maintain a copy of this form for your records.
- Submit this completed form to each childcare/school your child attends.

NOTE: Parent/legal guardian or student (if the student is 18 years of age or older) is responsible for providing a copy of this form to each childcare agency or school attended as the form does not automatically transfer to an additional childcare agency or school

Student's Name	Date of Birth	Grade/Level	
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Phone

The administration of immunizing agents conflict with the religious beliefs of the parent or legal guardian of the student listed above. Pursuant to NH Statute RSA 141-C:20-d, I understand, in the event of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease, for which an immunization is required, an exempt student shall be excluded from school attendance.

Please specify vaccine(s) for which this exemption applies (optional):

(This information is voluntary and if you choose not to provide the requested information, it will not impact religious exemption.)

☐ DTaP/Tdap/Td ☐ Polio ☐ Hepatitis B ☐ Hib ☐ MMR ☐ Varicella

Printed name of Signature of Parent/Guardian or Student (if student is 18+)

Signature of Parent/Guardian or Student (if student is 18+)

Date