



WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FAMILIES FOR VACCINES

In Opposition to HB 1584-FN

An Act Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Provide Notice of Medical and Religious Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

January 13, 2026

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

We submit this testimony on behalf of New Hampshire Families for Vaccines (NHFV), a statewide coalition of families, clinicians, and advocates who support evidence-based public health policy and work to protect children from preventable disease. **NHFV respectfully opposes HB 1584-FN.**

HB 1584 requires DHHS to place an exemptions notice—bold, starred, and at least as prominent as the main vaccine headline—on virtually any DHHS communication that promotes immunization, including websites, social media, publications, and advertisements. This is not neutral disclosure. It forces DHHS to foreground opting out at the exact moment the state is trying to deliver clear, timely prevention guidance. The likely effect is confusion for families and a chilling effect on routine outreach, without improving access or outcomes. The bill further exposes DHHS employees to personal civil penalties for noncompliance, which could effectively prevent DHHS from communicating about vaccines at all. It would also expand flexibility around the form of religious exemption documentation and require an annual legislative compliance report.

Together, these changes undermine clarity and effectiveness in public health communication while adding new administrative burdens without funding. The fiscal note anticipates new staffing costs and acknowledges uncertainty around enforcement, while experience elsewhere shows that restricting proactive vaccine communication does not build trust or improve outcomes. New

Hampshire's immunization system has worked because it emphasizes prevention, clarity, and consistency. Elevating exemption messaging and penalizing communication risks destabilizing that system at a moment when clear, science-based guidance is especially important.

For these reasons, New Hampshire Families for Vaccines respectfully urges the Committee to **vote inexpedient to legislate on HB 1584-FN** and to allow DHHS to continue communicating about vaccination in a manner that prioritizes public health, accuracy, and the protection of children and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Shaheen

Founder, New Hampshire Families for Vaccines