



February 4, 2026

Honorable Chairman MacDonald  
NH House Health, Human Service & Elderly Affairs Committee  
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB 1811

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 1811. For the record my name is Krysten Evans, and I am the Director of Policy for ABLE NH, a statewide disability justice organization that works to protect and expand the civil and human rights of people with disabilities across New Hampshire.

If enacted, this legislation would fundamentally weaken our public health infrastructure and place our most vulnerable residents at serious and unnecessary risk.

Vaccines are one of the greatest public-health achievements in modern history. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, routine childhood vaccinations prevent approximately 4 million deaths globally each year. In the United States alone, childhood immunization programs have prevented over 24 million deaths and saved nearly \$2 trillion in societal costs over the past three decades. These are not abstract statistics. These are children who lived. Families spared unimaginable grief. Communities protected from devastating outbreaks.

New Hampshire already maintains relatively high vaccination rates, which is precisely why we have avoided major outbreaks of diseases like measles, polio, and diphtheria, but public-health protection depends on community immunity. When vaccination rates drop below critical thresholds, outbreaks follow. We have seen this repeatedly across the country. In 2019, the United States experienced its largest measles outbreak in nearly 30 years, driven largely by declining vaccination rates. States with weaker vaccine requirements experienced the greatest harm.

House Bill 1811 would open the door to exactly that kind of public-health regression. For people with disabilities, the consequences would be even more severe. Many individuals with disabilities cannot safely receive certain vaccines due to underlying medical conditions, compromised immune systems, or complex health needs. These individuals rely on high community vaccination rates for protection. When immunization levels fall, they lose that shield. This bill would

expose them to life-threatening illness simply for attending school, childcare, or community programs.

For families of medically fragile children, this is not a theoretical concern. It is a daily calculation of risk. Removing vaccine requirements does not expand freedom. It forces families to choose between education and safety, inclusion and survival.

This bill also directly undermines school safety. Schools are not just educational environments; they are community health environments. Eliminating vaccination requirements increases the likelihood of outbreaks that lead to quarantines, school closures, staffing shortages, and emergency public-health interventions. These disruptions harm students, families, educators, and already strained school systems.

Financially, this bill is also deeply irresponsible. The Department of Health and Human Services projects millions of dollars in lost vaccine funding and increased outbreak response costs. Preventive care is far less expensive than emergency response. Every dollar invested in childhood immunization saves approximately ten dollars in future healthcare costs. HB 1811 trades proven fiscal responsibility for predictable public-health crises.

Most troubling, however, is the dangerous precedent this bill sets, replacing evidence-based public health policy with political ideology. Vaccination policy must be guided by science, data, and medical expertise, not misinformation or fear.

Medical consensus is unequivocal. Vaccines are safe. Vaccines are effective. Vaccines save lives. Repealing immunization requirements does not empower families. It abandons them.

New Hampshire has long been a leader in responsible public health policy. This bill would move us backward, jeopardizing decades of progress and placing vulnerable populations directly in harm's way.

On behalf of ABLE NH, the disability community, families of medically fragile children, healthcare providers, and public-health professionals across our state, I urge you to vote Inexpedient to Legislate on House Bill 1811.

Respectfully submitted,



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