

Subject: Opposition to HB 1811 – Protecting Public Health and Our Children

Dear Chairperson and Members of the House Health, Human Services, and Elderly Affairs Committee,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 1811**, the bill that seeks to repeal New Hampshire's statutory immunization requirements for children enrolling in schools and childcare programs.

Vaccines are one of the most effective public health achievements in history. Thanks to vaccination, diseases like measles, whooping cough, and polio are now extremely rare—and our communities are safer and healthier as a result. Removing immunization requirements would **significantly increase the risk of disease outbreaks**, endangering not only unvaccinated children but also infants, immunocompromised individuals, and others who cannot be vaccinated for legitimate medical reasons.

HB 1811 would abolish long-standing safeguards that have protected public health for generations. Schools and childcare centers rely on vaccination policies to maintain safe learning environments. Repealing these protections could create unnecessary fear, divide communities, and place an undue burden on educators, healthcare providers, and parents who depend on a healthy school environment.

While parental choice is important, public health policy must balance individual freedom with the collective responsibility to protect vulnerable populations. New Hampshire's current law already recognizes religious and medical exemptions, offering reasonable accommodations while maintaining public safety.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose HB 1811. I urge you to vote "**Inexpedient to Legislate**" to preserve effective public health policy and keep New Hampshire's children healthy and our schools safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration.