

House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee

Testimony

HB 1811-FN - Repealing statutory immunization requirements for children

February 4, 2026

Dear Chairman MacDonald and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dr. Amanda Morrill; I am a New Hampshire resident, and I have been a pharmacist and pharmacy educator for 15 years.

I am the President of the New Hampshire Pharmacists Association, and we urge you to **Oppose** HB 1811-FN – Repealing statutory immunization requirements for children.

Removing requirements for immunizations would weaken public health protections and leave our youngest and most vulnerable patients susceptible to outbreaks of preventable diseases.

There will be many people making arguments based on personal opinions, but I urge you to listen to the experts, who have decades of training and experience in this area. There is evidence to support efficacy for all vaccines listed, but I will provide just a few examples here.

Before 1995, Hib was responsible for thousands of cases of serious illnesses (e.g. meningitis, pneumonia, and sepsis). The incidence of Hib has declined more than 99% since the

introduction of the vaccine. Varicella, also known as chicken pox, is especially contagious, putting patients at risk as soon as an hour of indoor direct contact with an infectious person.

Imagine the rate of spread at an elementary school in one day given this fact. Complications of varicella can occur in both healthy or immunocompromised children and adults and include

secondary bacterial infections, the most common cause of varicella-related morbidity in otherwise healthy children, pneumonia, and neurological complications.

In order for vaccines to be effective in protecting the most vulnerable, we must achieve herd immunity (also known as population immunity), meaning a large percentage of people must have been vaccinated or had the disease. Herd immunity can stop disease from spreading, protect people from serious illness and death. Herd immunity has been achieved in the past for diphtheria, measles, polios, rubella and small pox due to vaccine efforts. Supporters of this bill will tell you we don't need vaccines because these diseases are rarely seen, however vaccines are the reason for this. Without vaccines, New Hampshire will see more of these diseases, hospitals will fill, and costs to care for these citizens will increase. Reductions in measles vaccination rates and corresponding outbreaks are a real time example of these ramifications.

In closing, I ask that you please vote **Inexpedient to Legislate** on HB 1811-FN.

Thank you for your consideration.