



Dear Committee Members,

Feb 1, 2026

On behalf of the public health community in New Hampshire, I am writing to urge your vote in opposition to HB1811, which proposes repealing NH's statutory immunization requirements for children in schools and child care. Removing these statutory requirements creates an environment of increased risk for vaccine preventable illness outbreaks that affect children, families, and educators and, over time, have profound unintended consequences on community safety and economies.

All 50 US states currently require vaccinations for entry to school. **No other state has repealed all requirements.** **Families** in the Granite State already have the ability to attend school and child care without completing the required immunizations by simply submitting notice of religious exemption.

We have long known that lower vaccination rates increase risk of illness for medically vulnerable children. We are now seeing increased risk of illness (and death) among healthy children in communities with lower immunization rates.

At the end of December 2025, the Centers for Disease Control reported the highest number of children hospitalized for flu in a week since the 2010-2011 flu season. 52 children have died from flu so far this season - a 10% increase over the same period last year, which was the deadliest season on record for kids. 90% of pediatric deaths so far this year have been in unvaccinated children.

**Vaccine requirements prevent outbreaks of highly contagious diseases.** Required childhood vaccines protect against illnesses like measles and pertussis that spread rapidly and can cause serious complications, especially in school and child-care settings.

- **They protect children who cannot be vaccinated.** Infants, children with medical conditions, and those who are immunocompromised rely on high community vaccination rates for protection.
- **They are proven safe and effective.** Childhood vaccines required by states have been extensively studied, continuously monitored, and shown to dramatically reduce illness, disability, and death.
- **They keep schools and communities open.** High vaccination coverage reduces the need for school exclusions, closures, and emergency public health responses during outbreaks.
- **They reduce health care costs.** Preventing disease avoids hospitalizations, long-term complications, and costly outbreak response efforts that fall on families, schools, and taxpayers.
- **They support fairness and shared responsibility.** Vaccine requirements ensure that no single family's decision puts other children and the broader community at risk.

Please vote NO on HB 1811 to signal your faith in NH families to make informed decisions for themselves and protect health for all who live in and love New Hampshire.

Regards,

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Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Health Association