

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Wayne MacDonald, Chair
House Health and Human Services Committee
One Granite Place
Concord, NH 03301

Re: New Futures’ testimony in opposition to HB 1449, limiting times vaccine clinics may operate at schools and requiring parents or legal guardians to be present with their child during the administration of vaccinations at such a clinic

Dear Chair McDonald and Members of the Committee:

New Futures appreciates the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 1449. New Futures is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates, educates, and collaborates to improve the health and wellness of all New Hampshire residents. In this role, we work extensively with policy makers, health care providers and communities to improve overall public health and improve health equity across the Granite State. New Futures supports public health policy measures that decrease illness and disease, including immunizations and programs that ensure equitable and broad distribution of vaccines-especially for children.

This bill introduces new regulations regarding vaccination clinics held at public elementary and secondary schools, as well as chartered public schools. Specifically, it prohibits the operation of such clinics during school hours, ensuring that vaccinations cannot be administered while school is in session.

While school based clinics have been scaled back in recent years due to cuts in federal funding, changing the law permanently to prohibit school vaccination clinics would be shortsighted in the event of a future public health emergency.

Historically, school-based clinics were one tool in the toolbox for public health practitioners to keep our communities safe. For example, in 2022 the well reported “Tripledemic” consisting of flu, RSV, and Covid-19 put a strain on hospitals nationwide and here in New Hampshire.¹ That fall, the New Hampshire Immunization Program partnered with eight Regional Public Health Networks to organize school-based influenza immunization clinics. The Public Health Networks worked with the Medical Reserve Corps, volunteers, nursing school students and school nurses to schedule clinic times, distribute and collect consent forms, and ensure a safe clinic environment.² These Networks partnered with local schools to vaccinate students and adults against seasonal influenza and prioritized schools where children were less likely to be insured or had other barriers to being

¹ <https://www.nhpr.org/2022-12-05/cdc-updates-the-status-of-the-tripledemic>

² <https://cnhnp.org/program/school-based-influenza-vaccination-clinics/>

vaccinated. According to the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services, over 4566 individuals were vaccinated at school-based clinics that year.

As this committee has heard from the Department of Health and Human Services several times this year when testifying on vaccine related bills, a communicable disease outbreak can cost the state between \$100,000-\$350,000. School based vaccine clinics can be a cost effective and accessible avenue to provide lifesaving vaccines to children and their families. This legislation would remove the state's ability to provide a vital public health service to its residents. **For these reasons. New Futures strongly urges the committee members to vote Inexpedient to Legislate on HB 1449.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn Frey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kathryn (Kate) Frey
Vice President of Advocacy