

An Act Relative to Vaccines and Public Health (H.3999)

This bill is sponsored by Representative Andres Vargas with 34 co-sponsors. It removes the religious vaccination exemption for children entering schools in Massachusetts and it maintains medical exemptions. The bill does not make vaccines mandatory. If a parent voluntarily chooses not to vaccinate their children, they can do so, but must find non-traditional schooling for them.

While this bill has a lot of support, we anticipate strong opposition to the bill and there are legislators who are undecided about the bill or who may be opposed. We ask each of you to reach out to your legislators, particularly those legislators that have not yet indicated support for this bill. The co-sponsorship list is [HERE](#). To find the contact information for your legislator, please search [HERE](#). Additionally, this is a list of legislators to focus on, if your legislator is on this [LIST](#) we strongly encourage you to contact them about this important bill.

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the bill.

ACP position on eliminating non-medical vaccine exemptions:

https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/policies/non_medical_exemptions_policy_2015.pdf

Email Template:

Dear [insert Senator or Representative] [insert name],

I am an internal medicine physician practicing in [insert town] and a member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP). Our chapter represents 4,200 physicians across Massachusetts, and we are the largest medical specialty organization with 159,000 members worldwide.

In 2019, there have been at least three reported cases of measles in Massachusetts. To prevent further resurgence of this and other deadly diseases, we must renew our commitment to vaccinating universally. We ask [insert your senator or rep name] to co-sponsor An Act Relative to Vaccines and Public Health (H. 3999) sponsored by Representative Andres Vargas with 34 co-sponsors. This bill removes the religious vaccination exemption for children entering schools in Massachusetts and it maintains medical exemptions. The bill does not make vaccines mandatory. If a parent voluntarily chooses not to vaccinate their children, they can do so, but must find non-traditional schooling for them.

Vaccines are one of the safest, most studied, and effective tools we have to combat serious, deadly illnesses. Our children, who are too young to receive vaccines, or individuals who are immunocompromised, rely on others to vaccinate for protection.

[Insert patient story. For example: A patient who developed a vaccine preventable disease or is immunocompromised and unable to receive vaccines.]

The bill is 100% constitutional. For over a century the courts have continuously ruled that removing religious exemptions for vaccines does not violate the First Amendment. The Supreme Court of the United States agrees, and has ruled that "the right to practice religion freely does not include liberty to expose the community or the child to communicable disease or the latter to ill health or death."

States have already acted to protect their kids. Mississippi, West Virginia, California, Maine, and most recently New York have removed religious exemptions. Massachusetts needs to be the next state.

In summary, I would like to thank you for your commitment to protecting our kids and all people in Massachusetts from preventable and potentially deadly diseases. I urge you to co-sponsor An Act Relative to Vaccines and Public Health (H.3999).

Sincerely,

[Insert your name]

Address

Telephone number

Phone script:

Hello,

I am an internal medicine physician practicing in [insert town] and a member of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP). Our chapter represents 4,200 physicians across Massachusetts, and we are the largest medical specialty organization with 159,000 members worldwide.

I am calling to ask [Insert Senator or Rep with name] to co-sponsor An Act Relative to Vaccines and Public Health (H. 3999) sponsored by Representative Andres Vargas. This bill removes the religious vaccination exemption for children entering schools in Massachusetts and it maintains medical exemptions. The bill does not make vaccines mandatory. If a parent voluntarily chooses not to vaccinate their children, they can do so, but must find non-traditional schooling for them.

Vaccines are one of the safest, most studied, and effective tools we have to combat serious, deadly illnesses. Our children, who are too young to receive vaccines, or individuals who are immunocompromised, rely on others to vaccinate for protection.

I would like to thank the [insert Senator or Representative] for their commitment to protecting our kids and all people in Massachusetts from preventable and potentially deadly diseases. I urge them to co-sponsor An Act Relative to Vaccines and Public Health (H.3999).