**Sample Letter**

Dear [Legislator’s name or Governor’s name]:

As the governor of the [insert state] chapter of the American College of Physicians, representing [add chapter membership] internal medicine physician specialists and medical students in our state, I am writing on behalf of our chapter to urge action on non-medical exemptions from state immunization laws. Our chapter is part of the American College of Physicians, which nationally represents 154,000 internal medicine physician specialists and medical student members.

Our chapter is very concerned about the recent surge in vaccine preventable diseases such as, measles. In 2018, there were 372 confirmed cases of measles; and already, this year, there has been close to 230 individuals confirmed with measles in 12 states.

Vaccines protect the health of children and adults and save lives. They prevent life-threatening diseases and certain forms of cancer.

Claims that vaccines are unsafe or may cause autism have been disproven by a robust body of medical literature including a recent Danish [study](https://annals.org/aim/fullarticle/2727726/measles-mumps-rubella-vaccination-autism-nationwide-cohort-study), published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, that shows that “MMR vaccination does not increase the risk for autism, does not trigger autism in susceptible children, and is not associated with clustering of autism cases after vaccination.”

[Data](https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/133/4/577.full.pdf) show that just for children born in the United States in 2009, routine childhood immunizations will prevent approximately 42,000 early deaths and 20 million cases of disease with savings of more than $82 billion in societal costs.

Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases have been linked to communities of unvaccinated and undervaccinated individuals.

We urge you to [INTRODUCE AND PASS LEGISLATION, AS APPLICABLE, THAT WOULD ELIMINATE NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS FROM STATE IMMUNIZATION LAWS OR OPPOSE LEGISLATION TO EXPAND EXEMPTIONS].We are counting on your support to take the necessary action to protect the health and welfare of patients in our state.

Yours truly,

[Insert name]

Governor

[Insert state] Chapter of the American College of Physicians