Dear MA ACP members,
There are 2 upcoming bill hearings at the State House on issues the MA ACP Health and Public Policy Committee (HPPC) feel are very important to our members.

1) We support universal vaccination of our patients by advocating for An Act Relative to Vaccines and Public Health (H.3999), which removes the religious vaccination exemption for children entering schools in Massachusetts and it maintains medical exemptions.

2) We support our immigrant patients by advocating for An Act to Protect the Civil Rights and Safety of All Massachusetts Residents (S.1401/H.3573 Safe Communities Act), which would prevent local law enforcement from asking about a person's immigration status unless it is required by law.

Further information about these bills is listed on the MA ACP website at this link: https://www.acponline.org/about-acp/chapters-regions/united-states/massachusetts-chapter/public-policy-advocacy. We ask that you contact your legislators about these bills today. To make this as easy as possible, we have provided email and phone call templates on the website for each bill that you can adapt. Phone calls can be more effective than emails but any outreach to your legislator is helpful. We encourage you to include a patient story to emphasize the personal impact this bill will have on your patients. Click HERE to access the template information.

The hearings for these bills will take place on Monday and Tuesday, December 2-3, 2019 so it is crucial that you contact your legislator today. We also encourage members to testify as individuals at the hearing for these bills. If you want more information about this or have any questions, please email Zoe Tseng at zoe.tseng@gmail.com.

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of all of our patients in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,
Zoe Tseng, MD, FACP
Aisha James MD
Co-Chairs, Massachusetts ACP Chapter Health and Public Policy Committee

Sheila Sridhar, MD
Chair, Immigrant and Refugee Health Subcommittee of the Massachusetts ACP Chapter Health and Public Policy Committee

Elisa Choi, MD, FACP, FIDSA
Governor, Massachusetts ACP Chapter