H.3999, An Act relative to vaccinations and public health

Email Template:

Re: Pass H.3999, An Act relative to vaccinations and public health

Dear Chair Comerford, Chair Mahoney, and Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Public Health:

I am writing in support of H.3999, An Act relative to vaccinations and public health. I strongly support this bill and removing the religious exemption from childhood vaccinations in Massachusetts.

I am an internal medicine physician 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. 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.]

Last Tuesday’s hearing on vaccines was especially concerning as we saw a large and passionate group of individuals with anti-vaccine sentiments cite misinformation and falsehoods as part of their testimonies. There is great danger in this continuing to spread across the state. The reasons cited for using the religious exemption were not religious in nature. We cannot afford to continue a trend where less and less individuals are receiving vaccines due to misinformation. If this trend continues, we put at risk the lives of our Commonwealth’s most vulnerable individuals: the young, the immunocompromised, and the elderly.

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 pass 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 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 the [insert Senator or Representative] pass 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.

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