



HEALTH CHOICE 4 ACTION

40 REASONS

TO OPPOSE PROPOSED BILLS S.2763/H.4784
'AN ACT PROMOTING COMMUNITY IMMUNITY'

MORE CONSIDERATION IS REQUIRED DUE TO CURRENT CLIMATE

- 1 COVID has intensified challenges for many families that would be further devastated by the proposed legislation.
- 2 Constituents have had extremely limited access to legislators during the pandemic.
- 3 The state has gained valuable knowledge pertaining to access to education during the pandemic that must be considered.

BILL IS UNNECESSARY

- 4 Massachusetts has the highest vaccination and herd immunity rates in the country.
- 5 Vaccination rates were at record highs this year, above 97% for all required vaccines.
- 6 Exemption rates decreased this year.
- 7 Schools with the lowest vaccination rates had no exemptions on file.
- 8 There is no correlation between higher exemption rates, measles cases, and vaccination rates in Massachusetts.
- 9 The percent of schools below herd immunity has declined 60% over the last 6 years.
- 10 DPH already has a comprehensive immunization schedule for all programs covered by this bill.
- 11 Collecting otherwise protected religious and medical data of children is unnecessary governmental overreach.

 www.fb.com/OpposeOverreach

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BILL PROPOSES INEFFECTIVE AND INEFFICIENT PROCESSES

- 12 | The bill focuses on families utilizing exemptions rather than understanding and supporting the GAP, the largest population of under vaccinated children in the state.
- 13 | The bill proposes ambiguous and unnecessarily burdensome processes that will significantly tax DPH resources.
- 14 | Schools will experience an increased burden with reporting and processing requirements.

PRIVATE PROGRAMS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO DISCRIMINATE

- 15 | The bill would amend current law to allow private programs to segregate and discriminate against children.
- 16 | Schools should not have the burden of determining immunization policy.
- 17 | Children with disabilities or special needs could be denied critical services and free and appropriate education, including highly specialized learning through '766' schools.
- 18 | 74% of early childhood education and childcare programs in the Commonwealth are private, severely limiting childcare options for working families.
- 19 | Children may be denied access to critical benefits of early education.
- 20 | Children in underserved communities may be denied school choice benefits.
- 21 | Participation in extracurricular activities would be severely restricted.
- 22 | A student missing even one vaccine could be barred from returning to their school.

ELEVATED RISK PROGRAM ENCOURAGES FEAR AND BULLYING

- 23 | The elevated risk program is state sponsored bullying, forcing private schools to discriminate against or deny students on the basis of religious creed.
- 24 | Data on vaccination rates by school is already publicly available for parents who need it.
- 25 | Students at small schools would become targets for discrimination and denial of entry.

DOCTORS AND FAMILIES ARE NOT PROTECTED

- 26 | Tracking doctors who write medical exemptions could prevent children who need exemptions from receiving them.
- 27 | Doctors in certain specialties or serving certain faith groups may become targets.
- 28 | The already limited options of pediatric care for children with exemptions will be limited even further.

BILL RAISES LEGAL ISSUES

- 29 | Minors would be permitted to consent to extensive preventative care.
- 30 | Minors could be vaccinated without parental consent or knowledge.
- 31 | Consenting minors would have no legal recourse if injured by vaccination.
- 32 | Public accommodation law is in conflict with the proposed legislation.
- 33 | Families of faith would be forced to sign a document they do not agree with that may put them at legal risk.
- 34 | Exemption forms could be fundamentally changed without legislative process.
- 35 | Proposed legislation disregards the HIPAA rights of medically fragile children.
- 36 | Massachusetts would face years of costly litigation.

FUNDING MECHANISM IS QUESTIONABLE

- 37 | Reallocating funds from the Vaccination Purchase Trust Fund could limit future financing meant to guarantee free immunizations for all children in the Commonwealth.
- 38 | No publicly available cost estimate has been provided for the bill, which would require significant funds to administer.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- 39 | Massachusetts should continue to be a leader in maintaining the highest vaccination rates in the country while preserving constitutional freedoms and protecting vulnerable subpopulations.
- 40 | This bill will not enhance the state's ability to respond to future novel virus pandemics.