



Harvard Pilgrim Health Care

October 27, 2015

Rep. Kate Hogan, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Public Health
State House, Room 130
Boston MA 02133

Sen. Jason M. Lewis, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Public Health
State House, Room 511B
Boston MA 02133

Dear Representative Hogan and Senator Lewis,

On behalf of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, I would like to express our support for House Bill 2051, An Act to Increase Access to Immunizations and urge the committee to issue a favorable report on this bill.

There are few interventions as powerful and effective in preventing the spread of disease than immunizations. Yet in Massachusetts, we do not distinguish ourselves as a national leader on vaccination rates as we do in other areas of health care. According to the Trust for America's Health, the pneumococcal vaccine rate for adults is less than 70%, which puts us at 28th in the nation, and with nearly 20% of children between 19-35 months of age Massachusetts comes in 48th. More must be done to close these gaps.

House Bill 2051 would amend the Professional Registration Statute and Controlled Substances Act to allow Certified Medical Assistants to administer immunizations under the supervision of a primary care provider. CMAs currently administer vaccines in school settings, and many other states allow them to do the same in a clinical setting with appropriate supervision.

The rapidly changing health care system, with ever increasing pressure for efficiency, coordination and improved quality, means increasing demands on primary care providers. This bill would allow them to delegate this responsibility to CMAs and free them up to focus on these other priorities such as time with patients who need their care.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



William Graham
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs and Government Programs