



# MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

*Every physician matters, each patient counts.*

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.2051 “AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO IMMUNIZATIONS” BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) wishes to be recorded in support of H.2051, “An Act to Increase Access to Immunizations.” This bill would authorize certified medical assistants to administer immunizations under the direct supervision of a primary care provider. We offer two amendments.

The promotion of immunizations remains a vital component of maintaining the public health of the Commonwealth. This legislation promotes greater flexibility in the delivery of immunizations within a primary care providers’ office while providing the important patient protection of direct supervision by primary care providers. The direct supervision definition provides the patient protection of ensuring the expertise of a primary care provider in the rare event of a complication, while promoting flexibility by defining supervision as not necessarily in the same room. The Medical Society asks that the bill be amended to include all physicians’ not just primary care providers as specialists also provide immunizations to their patients in the course of providing a broad spectrum of care associated with a condition. For example, a pulmonologist, caring for a patient with chronic pulmonary disease, would want to insure that their patient receives the flu vaccine and would provide that care during the course of a visit.

Influenza vaccines, as well as others including pneumonia and shingles, have significantly increased the number of vaccines delivered in physicians’ offices- especially outside the context of pediatrics. This bill would respond to the increase in demand by providing a thoughtful means to increase access to immunizations.

The Medical Society also asks that a very specific provision be included in the law that requires that an assistant is trained in the administration of immunizations to patients

The Medical Society applauds this bill, and urges the Joint Committee to favorably report this bill as amended.