



March 12, 2015

The Honorable Claire Ayer  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare  
Vermont Senate  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

The Honorable William Lippert  
Chair, House Committee on Health Care  
Vermont House of Representatives  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Dear Senator Ayer and Representative Lippert,

We write to strongly urge you to hold hearings and work to pass legislation that would help improve the rates of fully vaccinated children entering our schools. As mayors, no single issue is as important as the safety of our citizens, including our school children. Therefore, the Vermont Mayors Coalition advocates for the elimination of all non-medical exemptions from vaccination to promote the health and safety of our communities. An infectious disease outbreak may be only one carpool ride or school bus ride or plane flight away; now is the right time to take action to prevent such a devastating event *before* it occurs.

Vaccines and fresh water have proven to be the leading public health measures of the modern era. While we recognize that the 2012 legislative vaccinations debate was challenging, we ask that you revisit this issue immediately. According to data from the Vermont Department of Health, the number of exemptions and provisionally admitted students has increased since 2012, with use of the philosophical exemption far exceeding other exemptions.

As the leaders of our state's most urban areas, we know that any outbreak of vaccine-preventable illness would be felt most acutely in our communities and in our schools. We ask you to act swiftly in the interest of our shared constituents, to avail yourselves of the medical expertise available from our provider colleagues, and to call upon us to help advance this issue.

Sincerely,

The Vermont Mayors Coalition

cc: The Honorable John Campbell, Senate President Pro Tempore  
The Honorable Shap Smith, Speaker of the House