



May 15, 2026

Senate President Karen Spilka
Chairman Michael Rodrigues
Massachusetts State Senate
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senate President Spilka and Chairman Rodrigues:

On behalf of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO), and MassBio **we write to ask that the Senate adopts Senator Driscoll's budget amendment #563**. This amendment would ensure that Massachusetts residents have access to all FDA-approved and medically recommended immunizations.

This amendment makes certain that patients will not only have access to **all** medically appropriate vaccines, but it also ensures that providers will have a role in deciding what immunization is best for their patients which is a fundamental principle of the US vaccination system. **A recent survey of MA vaccine providers found that over 70% consider vaccine choice important. Among pediatricians, that number rises to 74%.** Providers know their patients best and must be empowered to select the vaccine that best meets individual needs, clinical circumstances, and public health goals.

Prior to 2023, Massachusetts maintained an informal policy of offering more than one FDA-approved vaccine option whenever available. This amendment would codify that approach, ensuring that Massachusetts, like Connecticut, remains a provider choice state giving residents greater confidence that they can work with their provider and select the vaccine brand that works best for themselves and their families. The amendment would also strengthen the Commonwealth's immunization strategy at a time when changes in federal vaccine policy are increasing concerns about the resurgence of diseases that had been largely eliminated in the United States for decades.

As an industry, our expertise lies in scientific research, development, and manufacturing of medications and preventive measures. We strive to provide accurate and reliable information based on scientific evidence and expert guidance. BIO and MassBio's vaccine manufacturer members remain committed to continuously working with federal and state policy makers to ensure vaccination policies reflect the best available science and serve the needs of both providers and patients. As such, we respectfully urge that the Senate adopts budget amendment #563 and reaffirms the Commonwealth's dedication to ensuring provider choice in vaccines. We welcome the opportunity to engage further in any discussion of this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stephen Burm'.

Stephen Burm
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
Director, State Government Affairs
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ed Coppinger'.

Ed Coppinger
MassBIO
Head of Government Affairs
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