



August 13, 2026

Primary Care Conference Committee
Senators' Friedman, Cronin and Tarr
Representatives' Michlewitz, Kilcoyne and Kane
State House
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Provider Choice for Vaccines

Dear Members of the Primary Care Conference Committee,

On behalf of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO) and MassBio, **we write in support of including the Provider Choice language from the House bill (Amendment #67) in the final legislation advanced by the Conference Committee.** This straightforward provision preserves the ability of patients and their healthcare providers to determine which vaccine brand is most appropriate based on an individual's clinical circumstances, medical history, and informed preferences. Maintaining this flexibility respects the patient/provider relationship, supports evidence-based clinical decision making, and helps ensure that patients continue to have access to the vaccine option that best meets their personal healthcare needs.

Prior to 2023, Massachusetts maintained an informal policy of offering more than one FDA-approved vaccine option whenever available. Including Amendment #67 language in the bill would codify that approach, ensuring that Massachusetts, like Connecticut, remains a provider choice state thus giving residents greater confidence that they can work with their provider and select the vaccine that works best for themselves and their families. **Including this policy 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. Further, patient and provider choice is crucial to maintaining confidence in vaccines as vaccine skepticism continues to rise.

When the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) decided to move away from its longstanding commitment to provider choice in 2023, DPH asked our industry to gather feedback from vaccine providers regarding the importance of maintaining vaccine choice. In response, Charles River Associates conducted a survey of Massachusetts vaccine providers. **The survey found that more than 70% of providers consider vaccine choice to be important, with support rising to 74% among pediatricians.** These findings underscore the value that frontline clinicians place on maintaining the ability to



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select the vaccine that is most appropriate for each patient. Providers know their patients best and should be empowered to recommend and administer the vaccine that best aligns with an individual's clinical needs, medical history, and public health objectives.

Massachusetts families are more likely to accept recommended immunizations when they have confidence that their healthcare provider can recommend the product they believe is most appropriate for that patient, rather than being limited by a state purchasing decision. Preserving choice helps reinforce the trusted relationship between patients and their healthcare providers, which is one of the strongest drivers of successful immunization programs.

Furthermore, allowing multiple vaccine brands improves supply chain resilience.

Relying on a single manufacturer or a limited number of products increases vulnerability to manufacturing delays, shortages, or distribution disruptions. A program that maintains access to multiple recommended vaccines provides greater flexibility and helps ensure patients can continue receiving recommended immunizations without unnecessary delays.

Massachusetts is widely recognized as the nation's leader in life sciences innovation, with a world-class ecosystem of research institutions, biotechnology companies, healthcare providers, and manufacturers working together to develop the next generation of vaccines and therapies. **The Commonwealth has made sustained investments in the biotechnology sector because it recognizes that scientific innovation, patient care, and economic growth are closely linked. Preserving provider choice in vaccine selection is consistent with that commitment.** Allowing healthcare providers to choose the vaccine that best meets an individual patient's clinical needs reinforces a healthcare system that values innovation, supports the adoption of new technologies, and ensures that medical decisions are guided by clinical judgment rather than administrative limitations.

By including the Provider Choice language from the House bill (Amendment #67), the legislature would reaffirm Massachusetts' longstanding commitment to fostering medical innovation while ensuring that patients continue to benefit from the full range of safe, effective vaccines developed through the Commonwealth's world-leading life sciences ecosystem.



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For all of these reasons, we respectfully urge that the Conference Committee include this language in the final bill which will reaffirm the Commonwealth's dedication to ensuring provider choice in vaccines. We welcome the opportunity to engage further in any discussion of this issue.

Sincerely,

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CC:

Speaker Ronald Mariano
Senate President Karen Spilka

About the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO)

BIO is the premier biotechnology advocacy organization representing biotech companies, industry leaders, and state biotech associations in the United States and more than 35 countries around the globe. BIO members range from biotech start-ups to some of the world's largest biopharmaceutical companies – all united by the same goal: to develop medical and scientific breakthroughs that prevent and fight disease, restore health, and improve patients' lives. BIO also organizes the BIO International Convention and a series of annual conferences that drive partnerships, investment, and progress within the sector. Learn more at www.bio.org.

About MassBio

MassBio represents the premier global life sciences and healthcare hub of Massachusetts, which has a vibrant biomedical research and development community that is a global leader for medical discovery and innovation. MassBio's 1,800+ member organizations are dedicated to preventing, treating, and curing diseases through transformative science and technology that brings value and hope to patients. MassBio's mission is to advance Massachusetts' leadership in the life sciences to grow the industry, add value to the healthcare system, and improve patient lives.