



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Court

January 26, 2021

Dear Governor Baker,

We are requesting that the state, under an expedited time frame, set up designated vaccination clinics in each county for grandparents raising grandchildren.

There are more than 30,000 grandparents raising grandchildren in the Commonwealth. Grandparents raising grandchildren play a central role in the emotional, educational, and economic well-being of children who in many cases otherwise would become the state's charges, with all the social, psychological, and economic burdens that would impose. While providing love, care, and comfort to their grandchildren, these grandparents are also in the crossfire of COVID, without necessarily falling squarely in one of the immediately vulnerable categories.

Grandparent support groups around the state, organized under the guidance of the Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren stand prepared to inform and help arrange transportation for grandparents to get vaccinated. If your office can work with public health officials to establish a date, place, and time for vaccines, the Commission will work closely with your representatives to ensure that these clinics are important successes.

We believe these grandparents raising grandchildren are essential workers in assuring the well-being of tens of thousands of children and deserve priority in receiving COVID-19 vaccines.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Susan L. Moran in blue ink.

Senator Susan L. Moran
Plymouth and Barnstable

Handwritten signature of Representative Kathleen R. LaNatra in blue ink.

Representative Kathleen R. LaNatra
12th Plymouth

Handwritten signature of Representative Mathew J. Muratore in blue ink.

Representative Mathew J. Muratore
1st Plymouth

Handwritten signature of Representative Timothy R. Whelan in blue ink.

Representative Timothy R. Whelan
1st Barnstable

Handwritten signature of Representative Steven G. Xiarhos in blue ink.

Representative Steven G. Xiarhos
5th Barnstable

Handwritten signature of Representative Shawn Dooley in blue ink.

Representative Shawn Dooley
9th Norfolk



Representative Tackey Chan
2nd Norfolk



Representative Susan Williams Gifford
2nd Plymouth



Senator Walter F. Timilty
Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth



Representative James M. Kelcourse
1st Essex



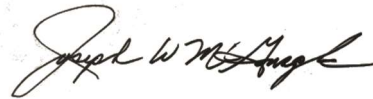
Senator Diana DiZoglio
1st Essex



Senator Adam G. Hinds
Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden



Representative Lindsay N. Sabadosa
1st Hampshire



Representative Joseph W. McGonagle Jr.
28th Middlesex



Senator Paul R. Feeney
Bristol and Norfolk



Representative Linda Dean Campbell
15th Essex



Representative Michael P. Kushmerek
3rd Worcester



Representative Jacob R. Oliveira
7th Hampden



Representative James M. Murphy
4th Norfolk



Representative Jessica Ann Giannino
16th Suffolk



Representative Thomas P. Walsh
12th Essex

Representative James K. Hawkins
2nd Bristol

Representative Jack Patrick Lewis
7th Middlesex

Representative Colleen M. Garry
36th Middlesex

Representative Todd M. Smola
1st Hampden

Representative Steven Ultrino
33rd Middlesex