



**Briarpatch Pediatrics**  
Boston Children's  
Primary Care Alliance



**BRIARPATCH  
PEDIATRICS**

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Sandwich, MA 02563

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[briarpatchpedi.com](http://briarpatchpedi.com)

Dear Determination of Need Program:

I am writing to support Boston Children's Hospital's proposal to modernize its existing facilities in Waltham and Weymouth, and build an ambulatory surgical center in Needham. I believe this project will greatly benefit children, families, and communities across our state and improve access for patients seeking lifesaving or life-changing care.

As a general pediatrician, and referring physician, for the past 27 years, I appreciate the great efforts Children's Hospital has undertaken, to improve communication between specialists and primary care doctors, to improve access to specialty testing and care on the south shore, and to ease some of the burden for patients and families, many of whom have significant medical and financial challenges and needs.

As a father of 3 daughters (17, 17, and 20 years old), all of whom have been patients at Boston Children's Hospital, at one time or another, I have personally experienced the emotional and financial turmoil that comes with having one child needing a major orthopedic surgery, and having to juggle the needs of a spouse, the patient's siblings, work, transportation, etc., to get the best care possible, from the best children's hospital in the world. Like any parent, I'll do whatever I need to do to care for my children, including waking up at 3 or 4am in the morning, then fighting rush hour traffic to get to 300 Longwood Avenue, paying to park, staying in hotels, holding buckets for my girls when they're suffering from post-operative/ post-anesthesia nausea and vomiting, etc., but, if some of that stress and inconvenience could be avoided, by getting services in satellite locations, albeit with the same quality of care and outcomes, I would be thrilled.


As a PPOC (Pediatric Physicians' Organization at Children's) member for the past several years, as a PPOC Board member the past 3+ years, and as a Boston Children's Primary Care Alliance member the past year, I am keenly aware of the quality of care provided by Boston Children's Hospital, and the great attention paid to the coordination of care among multiple specialists when necessary, to the social and emotional supports provided to patients and families, and to the extra efforts made to ensure culturally sensitive and competent care. "Until every child is well," is more than just a tag line at Boston Children's Hospital; it speaks of a culture of dedication and caring, by all providers and staff members, to give every patient and family hope, for the best outcomes possible.

Although my familiarity with the patient and family experience at Boston Children's Hospital satellite clinics is largely based on the south shore (South Weymouth, and North Dartmouth), and Waltham sites, I can only imagine that a comprehensive ambulatory surgical center in Needham would have a great impact on patients and families from the western Boston suburbs, and also on patients and families from the middle and western parts of the state. Parents are very appreciative when they don't need to miss an entire day of work (and pay), just to get to a brief specialist appointment, or follow-up appointment, or study, in Boston. The congestion at Boston Children's Hospital's main campus would also be improved, allowing for more access to those patients and families who live in urban Boston neighborhoods.

The proposed projects and investments will help Boston Children's grow this impact, and reach even more families and more patients, clearly demonstrating the hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of children throughout Massachusetts. These projects will ensure that patients and families have access to a full range of high quality, integrated pediatric care services in convenient, lower-cost settings. In addition, they will meet the needs of surrounding underserved communities. I am confident Boston Children's growing investments in children, families and communities will have a long-lasting impact, and benefit future generations of children for many years.

Thank you for accepting this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Leif R. Norenberg, M.D.  
Briarpatch Pediatrics  
Sandwich (68-B Route 6-A)  
Yarmouthport (179 Route 6-A)  
Nantucket (40 Sherburne Commons Road)

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### III. TEMPLATE SUPPORT LETTER

Determination of Need Program  
MA Department of Public Health  
250 Washington St.  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Determination of Need Program:

My name is Gera O'Hara and I am the Coordinator Health Services Weymouth Public Schools of \_\_\_\_\_. We serve children and families in Weymouth. I am writing to express my strong support for Boston Children's Hospital's plans to modernize its Waltham and Weymouth facilities and to build a new ambulatory surgical center in Needham. As you are aware, the need for children's access to integrated pediatric care, especially mental and behavioral healthcare, is great.

We applaud the fact that Boston Children's is undertaking these plans in a way that demonstrates its commitment not only to the health and well-being of children in those three communities but to addressing the needs of children and families in surrounding, underserved communities as well. This will ensure that families throughout Massachusetts have access to a full range of high quality, integrated pediatric care services where and when they need it.

A lack of transportation is one of the most serious problems facing the families that we serve, so we are especially pleased that families will have greater access to outpatient services in much more convenient locations. Boston Children's presence in our community also provides an important opportunity to complement and expand the services that (organization name) currently offers. We look forward to collaborating on ways to better serve our child, youth and family clients and the broader community.

I am confident Boston Children's investments in children, families and communities will have a long-lasting impact that will benefit our community for many years to come.

\_\_\_\_\_ appreciates the opportunity to provide this letter of support for Boston Children's proposed project. We strongly urge the Department of Public Health to act favorably on the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Gera M. O'Hara, MSW, BSW, ACMA, CHSRN  
Coordinator of Health Services





**Daniel E. Gutekanst, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools**

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August 18, 2021

Determination of Need Program  
MA Department of Public Health  
250 Washington St.  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Determination of Need Program:

My name is Dan Gutekanst and I am the Superintendent of the Needham Public Schools. We serve children and families in the Town of Needham. I am writing to express my strong support for Boston Children's Hospital's plans to modernize its Waltham and Weymouth facilities and to build a new ambulatory surgical center in Needham. As you are aware, the need for children's access to integrated pediatric care, especially mental and behavioral healthcare, is great.

We applaud the fact that Boston Children's is undertaking these plans in a way that demonstrates its commitment not only to the health and well-being of children in these three communities but to addressing the needs of children and families in surrounding, underserved communities as well. This will ensure that families throughout Massachusetts have access to a full range of high quality, integrated pediatric care services where and when they need it.

A lack of transportation is one of the most serious problems facing the families that we serve, so we are especially pleased that families will have greater access to outpatient services in much more convenient locations. Boston Children's presence in our community also provides an important opportunity to complement and expand the services that will serve Needham's families. We look forward to collaborating on ways to better serve our students, youth and family clients and the broader community.

I am confident Boston Children's investments in children, families and communities will have a long-lasting impact that will benefit our community for many years to come.

The Needham Public Schools appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support for Boston Children's proposed project. We strongly urge the Department of Public Health to act favorably on the proposed project.

Respectfully,

Daniel E. Gutekanst, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



EDWARD M.  
**KENNEDY**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**HEALTH CENTER**

**President/CEO**

*Stephen J. Kerrigan*

**Board Chair**

*Valerie Zolezzi-Wyndham*

**Serving**

*Central Massachusetts & MetroWest*

**Locations**

*Worcester | Framingham | Milford*

August 23, 2021

Determination of Need Program  
MA Department of Public Health  
250 Washington St.  
Boston, MA 02108

To the Determination of Need Program:

I am writing to support Boston Children's Hospital's proposal to modernize its existing facilities in Waltham and Weymouth and build an ambulatory surgical center in Needham. I believe this project will greatly benefit children, families, and communities across our state and improve access for patients seeking lifesaving or life-changing care.

Supporting initiatives to improve access to health care remains at the core of the mission of the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center. As a leader in community-based health care in Central and MetroWest Massachusetts serving over 26,000 patients, we strive to partner with organizations like Boston Children's Hospital to ensure equitable opportunities for and access to hospital-related services for our patients. The expansion of Boston Children's Hospital in Needham with the building of an ambulatory surgical center and the modernization of its facility in Waltham will provide a sustainable health care delivery system in the region.

I believe that the proposed projects and investments will help Boston Children's grow this impact and reach even more families and more patients, clearly demonstrating the hospital's commitment to the health and well-being of children throughout Massachusetts. These projects will ensure that patients and families have access to a full range of high quality, integrated pediatric care services in convenient, lower-cost settings. In addition, they will meet the needs of surrounding underserved communities.

I am confident Boston Children's growing investments in children, families and communities will have a long-lasting impact and benefit future generations of children for many years.

Thank you for accepting this letter of support.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Kerrigan  
President and CEO

**We help people live healthier lives.**

115 Northeast Cutoff, Bldg. 2, Suite 200, Worcester, MA 01606 | [www.kennedychc.org](http://www.kennedychc.org)

| FX 508 853 8593 |





HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL  
TEACHING HOSPITAL

**Ophthalmology Department**  
300 Longwood Avenue, Fegan 4, Boston, MA 02115  
bostonchildrens.org

August 23, 2021

Determination of Need Program  
MA Department of Public Health  
250 Washington St.  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Determination of Need Program,

I am writing to support Boston Children's Hospital's proposal to modernize its existing facilities in Waltham and Weymouth and to build an ambulatory surgical center in Needham. I believe this project will greatly benefit children in Massachusetts by improving access to pediatric eye care.

I am a pediatric ophthalmologist at Boston Children's, and my practice is focused on the youngest children—babies and toddlers. Due to constraints on the number of clinical rooms we have in our existing facilities, our team frequently has difficulty offering appointments to young families fast enough. If parents or pediatricians observe an eye crossing or another abnormality in a baby's eye, they understandably want to get a doctor's evaluation as quickly and easily as possible. This is especially true for non-English speaking or low socio-economic families, who face additional challenges in accessing health care in general and eye care specifically.

We are very fortunate to have one of the largest and most comprehensive pediatric eye centers in the nation, with the ability to treat any pediatric eye condition. The proposed facility upgrades will allow us to make full use of our extensive team of ophthalmologists and vision specialists much more efficiently in the service of the children of our communities.

I am confident that the growing investments in children, families, and their communities by Boston Children's Hospital will have a long-lasting impact and benefit the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Jastrzembski, MD  
Instructor in Ophthalmology

Boston Children's Hospital Department of Ophthalmology  
300 Longwood Ave., Fegan 4  
Boston, MA 02115

[Benjamin.jastrzembski@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Benjamin.jastrzembski@childrens.harvard.edu)