Testimony relative to 105 CMR 159.00 - Vaccinations for Certain Staff Providing Home Care Services in Massachusetts

**Presented By:**

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**Home Care Aide Council**

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Founded in 1967, the Home Care Aide Council is a nonprofit trade association representing over 85 non-profit and for-profit home care agencies that directly employ, supervise, and manage over 25,000 home care aides who provide personalized and supportive direct care services which enable our elders and disabled individuals to reside in community-based settings. The Council is committed to enhancing quality of care throughout the home care industry by focusing on the advancement of the home care aide workforce.

On behalf of our 75+ provider members, I would like to state that the Vaccine Mandate created considerable hardship for home care agencies.

There was a serious workforce shortage prior to the COVID-19 pandemic which was exacerbated by the Vaccine Mandate. Unvaccinated workers had to be terminated and the available workforce to hire was reduced considerably due to applicants having to be vaccinated. This left fewer workers being able to care for vulnerable elders in their homes.

When the public health emergency ended in May, there was a lot of inconsistency across the LTSS system, because vaccines were still required for home care until September and they were not in other areas such as VNA’s, hospitals and various health systems.