Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am sincerely grateful for your service to the people of Utah and am writing you today to request your support of HB 308: Public Health Education Module and 309: Public Health in Schools. The highlights of the two bills are included below:

HB 308: Public Health Education Module

* The State Health Department will create a standardized education module for parents seeking personal immunization exemptions. Education will include:
  + Signs and symptoms of immunization preventable diseases.
  + Education on how community immunity works.
  + Training on 21 day exclusion rule for unimmunized children during outbreaks.
  + Information about cost and locations where immunizations are available.
  + Online availability, taking about 20 minutes to complete.
  + Education module meets requirement for all children in the family.
  + A certificate of completion that expires in two years, but does not require renewal of exemption form unless entering 7th grade.

HB 309: Public Health in Schools

* Require renewal of immunization exemption form at kindergarten and seventh grade.
  + Right now, immunization exemptions in kindergarten last until the child graduates from high school.
  + Required renewal at seventh grade would give exempting parents the opportunity to evaluate recommendations for adolescent immunizations
* Allow a 21 day conditional enrollment to get immunizations, records or exemption forms after the start of school.
  + Some transfer students need extra time to find immunization records. With this bill, children can start school while parents find or request records.
  + Parents may be unaware of immunization requirements for school. With this bill, parents have extra time to have child immunized.

As a participant of the workgroup that has drafted these bills for the past year, we have spent countless hours meeting with the state health department, local health departments, school nurses, and school secretaries. These bills represent a good balanced compromise while maintaining the support of the health departments, the school nurses, and Utah Medical Association.

With rising exemption rates and increases in disease outbreaks, this bill is imperative to help protect the community. The public depends on the local health departments to contain the disease and protect the community. We must trust and respect the recommendations from the health department, school nurses, and the Utah Medical Association regarding these bills, as they are in support of HB 308 and 309.

I ask that you, too, please support HB 308 and 309. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

XXXX