

From: david benson <dbenson7601@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 9:59 AM
To: IRRC
Cc: ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov
Subject: opposition to 28 Pa. Code §§ 23.81–23.87

Cindy Findley
Director, Division of Immunization
Department of Health
PO Box 90
Harrisburg PA 17108

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IRRC

Dear Ms. Findley et al:

Please accept my opposition to 28 Pa. Code §§ 23.81–23.87. As the parent of a child brain- injured from vaccination, I feel as though the increasing state and federal mandates regarding vaccination are following a dangerous path. Vaccination has always carried, as a possible side effect, the risk of brain damage and death. A medical intervention which lists these side effects cannot morally or ethically be imposed on a civilian population. Homeschooling families should not be put in the position of having to submit to scrutiny regarding vaccine requirements as their children pose very little threat to public health by the very nature of their schooling.

In a free and open society vaccination should be an embraced and celebrated means of limiting disease exposure. However, the public's rejection of the current vaccination requirements is a symptom of the constant pressure and increasingly restrictive and punitive measures put in place by governing bodies regarding vaccination. The more force and legislation that is enacted to ensure vaccination requirements are met, the more rejection that will ensue. Indeed, vaccination programs have moved from being lauded as life-saving to being increasingly suspect. This is due to the trend in our society to move away from utilizing vaccination as a means of limiting life-threatening diseases such as Polio, where a potential for brain injury could be seen as justified, to mandating vaccination for diseases such as HPV which does not carry the same public threat. As the vaccination schedule becomes filled with greater and greater numbers of required vaccination the true spirit and intent of public vaccination programs is lost.

I urge you to reconsider the passage of 28 Pa. Code §§ 23.81–23.87. The most successful means of encouraging families to embrace vaccination requirements is to create more individual liberty rather than to impose greater restriction. I hope that you will see past personal and financial commitments to see that this truth is evident.

I appreciate your time regarding this matter.
Thank you,
Heather Benson