

3147

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IRRC

Kathy Cooper

From: P. Stoudt <dr.patti.s@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2016 12:47 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: changes proposed in IRRC #3147

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To whom it may concern,

I have read of the recent changes proposed in IRRC #3147, making changes to title 28, chapter 23 of the Pennsylvania Code. As a Pennsylvania citizen, a parent, and a consultant among homeschooling families, I have grave concerns about this proposed legislation.

1. Home education programs would be required to report immunization data to the Department electronically by December 31 each year using a format and system provided by the Department.
 - a. I work with over 100 families and over 300 children each year under Act 196 of 2014, the PA Homeschool Law. I have many homeschooling families, who for religious reasons choose to not have internet in their homes. It will be an undue hardship for them to be mandated to submit personal records electronically by seeking a public computer in a library or other public location. By removing the option for submitting a paper form, the state is disregarding their religious preferences and is heaping undue burden on these families.
2. The eight-month provisional period for school-age children who have not received all required vaccines would be reduced to a five-day period during which children must receive all single dose vaccines and the next or final dose of multiple dose vaccines and a medical certificate documenting a schedule for any subsequent required doses.
 - a. If the medical community has established a recommended safe timeline for administration of the vaccines, with time between doses to allow the body to absorb and adapt, how can an 8-month period be truncated into 5-day and still be safe?
3. The Department indicates in its estimate of costs that it removed the proposed amendment requiring proof of immunity to varicella (chickenpox) from a physician, certified registered nurse practitioner, or physician assistant. This language, however, remains in the text of the draft available online. Under current law, parents are able to provide a statement regarding immunity.
 - a. How can the proposed legislation be self-contradictory, putting at risk families who choose to adhere to one part of the law by not providing proof of immunity to chicken pox, when another part of the law seems to still require it?

It seems with many changes in legislation, our freedoms are being further eroded. The government appears to be of, by, and for itself, rather than of the people, by the people, and for the people. Forcing families to adopt technology when their religious preferences dictate otherwise, violates their freedom of religion. Forcing a short turn-around period for vaccinations poses physical risk to children. Having parts of the proposed law contradict

itself causes confusion and puts families at legal risk if they adhere to one portion but can be found out of compliance on the same issue by the same law.

Please reject the proposed changes and create legislation that is truly of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Thank you,

Dr. Patricia (Patti) Stoudt

Homeschool Evaluator/Consultant

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