

3147

Kathy Cooper

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IRRC

From: Aaron Smothers <asmothersoriginal@gmail.com>
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To: IRRC
Subject: IRRC #3147

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Regarding proposal IRRC #3147, which makes changes to title 28, chapter 23 of the Pennsylvania Code:

1. Parents and guardians of homeschoolers already submit a notarized legal document attesting that children are up-to-date on immunizations. We attest to being current on the annual physicals. Our doctors have records of our information and keep up with our immunizations, making sure we are legal. Our local school districts view our paperwork, further insuring we are current on immunizations.
2. Submitting a form, electronic or otherwise, with information on minors is not in the best interest of children. It not only flies in the face of HIPPA, but also opens a door for requests for further private information. It's a slippery slope.

Instead of asking for - what should remain - private information on minors, consider focusing simply on the 5-day rule and asking doctors or public and private schools to provide a simple tally sheet from public & private schools per grade compared with the total number of students in that grade. That would avoid sharing of private information of minors while providing statistics.

Homeschoolers who follow the law are already either exempt or following the law. Having to fill out a form will not change these groups significantly.

If forms absolutely cannot be avoided, they should be extremely focused only on:

- school district or township
- age at start of school year (or grade)
- which immunizations were received
- NOT include: name, birthdate, social security number, address, or any other private information

3. Please consider that this rule may cause a negative consequence among homeschoolers. Those undecided on whether to immunize, who are considering homeschooling, will be more likely to choose NOT to immunize to avoid sharing children's private information and to avoid one more burden in the second toughest state to home educate in.

We want to keep our children's medical information private, between our doctors and ourselves. Please respect our right to do so.

Thank you for considering my request.
Aaron Smothers