

3147

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IRRC

Kathy Cooper

From: sandymomof5@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2016 10:38 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Comments on proposal IRRC #3147

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to proposal IRRC #3147, which would make changes to title 28, chapter 23 of the Pennsylvania Code. I **strongly oppose** these changes for the following reasons:

- Currently there is an 8-month provisional period for school-age children to "catch up" on required vaccines they may not have had before entering school. This would be reduced to a mere 5 days, which is simply not feasible, and is dangerous. It is unrealistic to expect busy families to somehow arrange a doctor's visit and complete the required vaccinations, and dangerous to administer so many vaccine doses in such a short period of time. It would be far more reasonable and safe to allow a 60-day period.
- The proposal would require parents of children who have natural immunity to chicken pox to either submit documentation from a medical professional or to have the child vaccinated despite having had the disease (and thereby natural immunity). Chicken pox is often a mild illness in young children that does not require a doctor's care; many parents would have no way to obtain such documentation. Additionally, why would a parent, or a doctor for that matter, wish to have a child infected with an active, highly contagious case of chicken pox present in the office, putting other children - including infants - at risk? Requiring "proof" from a medical professional is unnecessary; a written statement from the parent should be sufficient.
- It is my belief that ultimately, parents should have the right to choose whether or not to vaccinate their children, even if they attend school. With so much debate over the efficacy and safety of vaccines, why strip away the right to choose? Most parents care about their children more than life itself. Let them make informed decisions. Don't pass yet more laws to "keep us all safe." This is America, "Land of the Free," not land of the legislated!

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Sandra Muller, former RN, mother of 5