

3147

Kolva, Patti

RECEIVED

IRRC

From: Lynn <lynn.nma@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 05, 2016 10:16 AM
To: Findley, Cynthia
Subject: Comments Re: No. 3147 - School Immunizations (10-197)
Attachments: Pennsylvania.docx

2016 MAY 11 AM 10:16

May 5, 2016

Cynthia Findley, Director
Division of Immunization, Department of Health
625 Forster Street, Health and Welfare Building, Room 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: IRRC No. 3147 - School Immunizations (10-197)

Dear Ms. Findley,

I am the President of the National Meningitis Association, www.nmaus.org, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded by families whose children were tragically affected by meningococcal meningitis. Of the five original founders, three of us, including me, lost our children, and two had their children survive, but now as quad amputees. What all of us had in common, was that we did not know this disease is potentially vaccine-preventable. For us, it was too late when we found out.

Our organization has worked tirelessly over the last 14 years to raise awareness about meningococcal meningitis and its prevention. The

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Our organization has worked tirelessly over the last 14 years to raise awareness about meningococcal meningitis and its prevention. The only way to prevent this disease is through vaccination. We commend the Department of Health's efforts to ensure that adolescents in the state of Pennsylvania receive vaccines as recommended by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). As you know, the ACIP recommends routine immunization with the meningococcal conjugate ACWY (MCV4) at ages 11-12 with a booster dose at age 16.. The proposed rule changes requiring a meningococcal vaccine before 12th grade entry will align with the ACIP recommendations, and I believe that that patient and public health will benefit from this important requirement. Even though this disease is rare, it is deadly.

Thank you for considering this policy. I am happy to speak with you at any time.

Sincerely,



Lynn Bozof, President
National Meningitis Association, Inc.
www.nmaus.org
678-779-3370

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