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May 3, 2016

RE: 46 PaB. 1798, *School Immunization, April 9, 2016*

Dear Secretary Dr. Karen Murphy,

We are respectfully submitting these comments in support of proposed regulation 46 PaB.1798, *School Immunization*, published on April 9, 2016, and your efforts to reduce vaccine-preventable diseases in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

According to the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other leading health authorities, vaccines are one of the most valuable health innovations in modern times and help save and improve lives of people of all ages around the world.^{1,2}

The CDC also points out that if vaccination rates decline below a certain level, there may be an increase in diseases for which there are vaccines, even though the diseases are no longer common in the United States.³ Childhood immunizations play an important role in reducing incidents of vaccine-preventable disease.^{1,2}

Thank you for your work to improve the health of Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

Dom Argento
State Government Affairs Executive

Dorothy A. Miller, JD, MPH
Associate Director, Vaccine Policy & Government Relations

Merck & Co., Inc.

References

1. WHO, UNICEF, World Bank. *State of the World's Vaccines and Immunization*, 3rd ed. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009. XIV. http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241563864_eng.pdf?ua=1. Accessed April 25, 2016.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ten great public health achievements --- United States, 2001--2010. *Morb Mortal Wkly Rep*. 2011; 60(19):619 -- 623. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6019a5.htm>. Accessed April 25, 2016.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2014. What Would Happen If We Stopped Vaccinating. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/whatifstop.htm>. Accessed April 18, 2016.