

**Madison Brame**

From: Lauren Erney <lauren.zofchak.erney@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 8:12 PM
To: IRRC
Cc: Lauren Erney
Subject: DOH ruling on Communicable & Noncommunicable Diseases Reg number: 10-242 IRRC number: 3490

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my serious concerns regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Health's proposed changes to 28 Pa. Code Chapter 27.

As a parent, my position is simple: **parents are the primary decision-makers for their minor children.** Government agencies should not have access to my child at school for questioning, interviewing, medical evaluation, testing, contact tracing, collection of medical information, or other health-related purposes without my knowledge and explicit consent, except where existing law clearly requires otherwise and appropriate due-process protections apply.

Sending a child to school should never be interpreted as a parent surrendering parental authority or providing blanket consent for government access to that child.

I am particularly concerned about any language that could allow Department of Health personnel, local health authorities, schools, or their representatives to access a minor child without first notifying and obtaining consent from the child's parent or legal guardian.

I respectfully ask that the Department and IRRC address the following concerns before these regulations move forward:

1. **Parental Consent:** Will the regulations explicitly require parental consent before government personnel interview, question, examine, test, or collect information directly from a minor student?
2. **Parental Notification:** Will parents be notified before—not merely after—a government agency seeks access to their child at school?
3. **Medical Privacy:** What student medical, health, vaccination, attendance, or other personal records could be provided to government agencies without parental authorization? How will that information be protected, retained, shared, and ultimately destroyed?

4. **Religious Liberty:** How will the Commonwealth protect families with sincerely held religious beliefs regarding medical care, testing, vaccination, treatment, or other health interventions? Religious accommodations should be clearly defined and protected.
5. **Religious and Private Schools:** How will these regulations affect Christian schools, Catholic schools, other religious schools, private schools, and homeschool families? Attendance at a religious or private school should not diminish a parent's constitutional rights or religious liberty.
6. **School Exclusion:** What specific standards would allow the government to exclude a child from school, and what immediate due-process and appeal rights would parents have?
7. **Limits on Government Authority:** What safeguards prevent broad public-health powers from being exercised without individualized justification, particularly during a future emergency?
8. **Due Process:** Before the government interferes with a parent's medical or educational decisions for a child, what burden must the Commonwealth meet, and what opportunity does the parent have to challenge that decision?

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how quickly emergency public-health decisions can affect children's education, family life, religious practice, medical decisions, and individual liberties. Whatever one's views of the decisions made during that period, we should have learned the importance of establishing **clear limits and protections before the next emergency occurs.**

I support appropriate measures to protect public health. However, protecting public health and respecting parental rights are not mutually exclusive.

A public-health emergency should not create unlimited government authority over children.

Parents should know who is speaking with their children, what information is being requested or collected, what medical actions are being considered, and how their children's personal information will be used. Except where a court order or clearly established law provides otherwise, parental knowledge and informed consent should be required before government officials are given direct access to a minor child.

I respectfully request that Regulation 10-242 be revised to include clear and enforceable protections for **parental consent, parental notification, religious liberty, medical privacy, and due process.** These protections should be written directly into the regulation rather than left to future policies, guidance, or administrative interpretation.

Parents do not relinquish their responsibility—or their rights—simply because their children walk through the doors of a school.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Lauren Erney

Pennsylvania Parent