

Dear Senators,

We are writing to you about the proposed bill HB 3063. We are strongly opposed to this bill, and urge you to not allow it out of committee.

We are not anti-vaccine, however we believe strongly that mandating any medical procedure is unconstitutional. We are concerned with preserving the right to self-determination on many levels, particularly where individual health is concerned.

Vaccine injury DOES exist. Ingredients that are prohibited by many religions are included in many vaccines. Many vaccines included in the CDC recommended list, which we understand is the list this bill is recommending be used to determine the schedule of vaccines, is far greater than the list used in many other developed countries. Countries, we might add, which have a much lower rate of childhood mortality in general. Many of these countries allow parents to work with the schedule of vaccination.

While Mississippi has been cited as the model for compliance with mandatory vaccination, West Virginia is very low in compliance and also has a vaccine mandate (source: CDC website). Cherry picking data is bad science.

All of this points to the value of some measure of flexibility in laws concerning vaccination.

Our current laws, and allowances for there to be philosophical and religious exemptions, are rooted in the fact that early vaccine experimentation was enacted on prisoners in concentration camps in Nazi occupied Europe. Following that time, it was clearly understood that individual liberty was an important consideration in any medical procedure, and that encroaching on that "in the name of science" or "the good of society" was a slippery slope. After the Nuremberg war trials, the so-called Code of Nuremberg was published that laid down the groundwork for ethical conduct in research on humans that we have today. Later on, this led to the so-called Declaration of Helsinki, which has been amended and clarified ever since. Part of the first amendment from 1975 clearly states: "concern for the interests of the subject must always prevail over the interests of science and society."

We urge you strongly to keep this in mind as you weigh your decision in this matter. In our opinion, the current schedule of vaccines is over-reaching any logical need. Yes, complications from chickenpox can occur, but not at the same rate as complications from vaccines. As the list of "recommended" vaccines grows to include much less dangerous illnesses, our confidence in the need for them decreases, and our questioning the motivation of the State increases.

We need a voice in the care of our children, as does any parent.

Thank you for reading,
Tom and Durga Fuller