

Submitter: Catherrine Thompson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB42

I am a retired pediatrician. During my time in practice from 1977 to 2014 I had the wonderful experience of seeing all 3 major bacteria that cause bacterial meningitis, Haemophilus influenza, meningococcus and pneumococcus be prevented by vaccines. While these diseases were treatable with antibiotics, due to their rapid progression many children were brain damaged, lost limbs, suffered kidney failure or other permanent complications and many died in spite of treatment. The best way to see the incredible impact of vaccines is to practice in a time when children were killed or seriously injure by a disease every year and then, after the availability of vaccines to prevent those diseases, to never see it again.

Vaccines work. Prevention saves money. Herd immunity from vaccines prevents disease in those too young or suffering from conditions that prevent them from to getting vaccines for health reasons. Public health measures save money and prevent disease, death and heartache. Please pass this bill to fund life saving vaccines.

Catherine Thompson, MD