

I **oppose** the removal of the Religious Exemption for vaccination. I would first like to express my dismay that the forum provided is not a true public hearing. There is no bill to speak on and the legislators who will vote were not invited to hear the testimony. This process is un-American.

That being said, I am aware that there are many well-intentioned members of this legislature who likely feel pressured to remove the exemption for fear of not doing their part to stop a crisis. Let's slow down and take a look at the big picture.

Legislators are being rushed to a hasty vote based on the school exemption data released by the Department of Public Health last week, despite that data being inaccurate. Representative Linehan even stated to the press that, "It's certainly not something we can decide overnight." Updated data was released this week, *after* Representative Ritter called a caucus to discuss a vote, and is still not accurate. Why is no one verifying these numbers? How many immunocompromised children attend these schools? Using percentages for schools with small numbers drastically skews the overall picture. The 95% vaccination threshold for herd immunity is but a hypothesis.

Where is the health crisis? No health emergency has been declared. How can our lawmakers be expected to pass legislation based on conjecture?

Representative Ritter recently stated that immunocompromised kids are "the kids we're sticking up for." He referenced the measles outbreak in CA. Is he aware that 38% of the measles cases in Disneyland were vaccine-strain measles? Atypical measles is a side effect of MMR vaccine and live-virus vaccines shed, thus recently vaccinated individuals put others at risk. Why is Representative Ritter not putting forth legislation to quarantine children who have recently received a live-virus vaccine, such as MMR? This should be at the forefront of this issue. Healthy unvaccinated children cannot spread infections they don't have.

Where is the concern for the dangers of these vaccines? Encephalopathy and death are among the long list of adverse reactions to MMR vaccine. As of January, claims have been filed for 82 deaths and nearly 1800 serious injuries from MMR. When we talk about vaccinating for the "greater good," what we are really saying is that there is acceptable collateral damage.

The concept of vaccination is wonderful. Unfortunately, it's not reality. I take offense to Representatives Ritter and Linehan's comments that parents are using "junk (or) pseudo-science." We parents who advocate for medical freedom are applying valid, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence. We also know what we have seen happen with our own children's health. Many of us have nurtured our children after they were damaged by vaccines and some have lost them. By understanding infection, how our greater power created our immune system, the harms and implications of injecting vaccine ingredients and contaminants to alter that immune system, then to risk our children's lives for an unproven hypothesis... yes, that is in direct conflict with the religious beliefs of many. We are not lying. We are mothers, we are fathers, we are concerned human beings, we are educated. And we have the right to be heard and respected.

Thank you.

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