

Honorable Chairman Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio and Honorable Members of the Health Committee. I stand before you today in an interesting situation. While I cherish the legislative process our forefathers developed in order to protect our citizenry from tyranny, and feel a deep gratitude towards the ability to exercise these precious rights we all hold dear, I can't help but feel slight outrage, that I am living in a world where medical gods rule (or rue) the day, our nation's children are some of the sickest of all developed nations, clearly the pediatricians HAVEN'T figured it out, the injections continue to increase, not all legislators are scientists, and yet, here we are, having this conversation.

I am Megan Elder, a wife, a mother of three and a graduate of Kent State University. I have my Masters in Education and I taught students with Autism for almost a decade, before becoming a stay at home mom. My children and their health and well being are my first priority. I also come from a family of Ohio educators, my father a retired superintendent and my mom a retired teacher. We have made working with children and adults with disabilities our life's mission, and I was raised to be an investigator, a discoverer, someone who asks questions and that has the spirit of a lifelong learner.

I believe that all children should have access to an educational environment free from discrimination based on vaccination status, or should I say, receipt of a vaccine PRODUCT. Literally, as a ticket to school entry, we are asking people to prove their children were injected with a series of products manufactured by, what is turning out to be, one of the most corrupt industries in the world.

Interestingly, I was never asked to show vaccination records or be vaccinated as a public school teacher. I worked with medically fragile children in a school environment, helped with many personal care activities and mealtime routines. Receipt of a vaccine product was never an issue. Teachers are still not required to show proof of any vaccinations. Just the children. Current ORC doesn't even require vaccine exemptions to be communicated. The schools and health departments don't inform parents.



vaccine requirement posting

Inbox x



Cindy Modie <cmodie@loraincountyhealth.com>

7/25/17



to me, superintendent, Ohio, contact, steve_sayers, ron_yacobozzi, Dave

Ms. Elder,

Thank you for taking the time to write to us on your concerns with vaccines that are mandated by the state of Ohio for designated grades. You are correct concerning the posting on the Amherst Exempted Local School District's public page. Children entering 7th grade must show proof of one dose of Tdap vaccine and one dose of Meningitis vaccine. The mandates for a dose of Tdap was passed and in effect for the 2012-13 school year. Beginning with the start of the 2016-17 school year the meningitis vaccine mandate was passed requiring all children entering 7th and 12 grades to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease.

However, the state of Ohio in revised code 3313.671 does allow for exemptions. You as a parent can choose to file an exemption in writing to allow your child to not comply with the above mentioned mandates because of religious or philosophical beliefs. Your physician would file an exemption if your child had a medical cause against certain vaccines or had a case of the disease naturally. However, children with exemptions can be removed from school if cases of certain communicable diseases are present in that school.

It is not the responsibility of the health department to communicate exemptions. We advocate for full vaccination of all students and the community as a whole to provide the best protection to those that cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons and those that choose not to be vaccinated. The revised code does not mandate that exemptions be posted.

If I can be of further service please let me know.

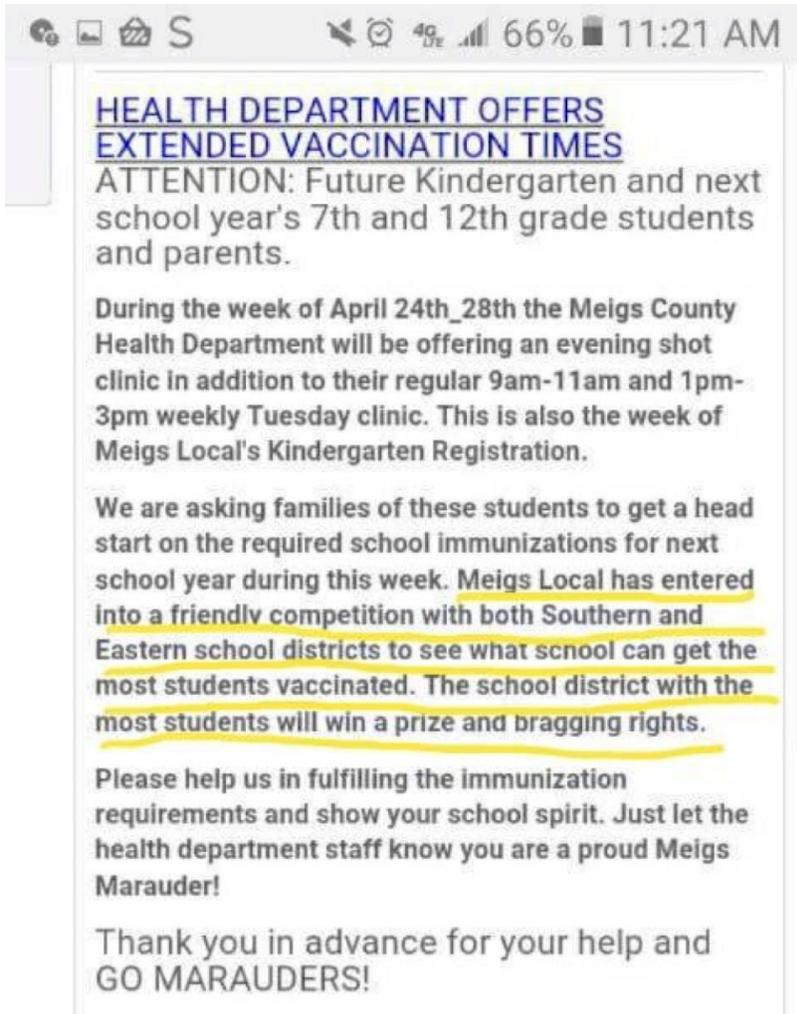
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Without testing every child's titers for every disease we are vaccinating for, we don't have the data about kids, let alone every bus driver, cafeteria worker, administrator, custodian, and paraprofessional. One may ask, "Is this really about public health?"

No. It isn't. We simply have a horrible situation for discrimination based on receipt of a product.

Will this bill allow the perpetuation of the "contests" we have seen for vaccinations, including but not limited to excluding "unvaccinated" from prom, parking passes, and sports. This has all happened in Ohio. I am including one especially alarming example of a vaccination "contest" that occurred here in Ohio last Spring.



Additionally, many of us who stand firmly in opposition of this bill have had this “conversation” before. We have been kicked out of doctor’s offices. Our children denied medical care. We have been told our children cannot attend school, church, and other events (which are all lies, of unknown origin.) Many of us have been asked to sign “forms” as well. Forms with statements that sound incriminating, forms that violate free speech because we DO NOT AGREE with their contents. I know of mothers who have been chased through waiting rooms with said forms. I know moms who have been held in offices and told they cannot exit the premises without signing forms! Some vaccines contain aborted fetal material. This is a fact. I do not consent.

This is DISCRIMINATION!

Important to note, on the AAP website, one can find many articles, courses, and other literature pertaining to how to deal with these “vaccine hesitant” parents in their offices. Their keynote speaker at this year’s annual event will focus solely on increasing vaccination rates in office visits, as you can see in this screen grab from the brochure for their annual meeting.

**Ohio AAP Foundation Fundraiser:
Saving the Day for Ohio's Children Luncheon
How to Win at Playing Whack-A-Mole in a Minefield:
Reaching Vaccine-Hesitant Parents**

Keynote speaker, Tara Haelle, an international expert story teller, author of *Vaccination Investigation* and *The Informed Parent*, and TED Talk influencer, will provide an overview of caregiver immunization fears and motivations and give providers and advocates strategies rooted in both science and empathy to improve immunization health.

- Learn why logic and reason seem to hit a brick wall when trying to discuss benefits of vaccines with hesitant or fearful parents
- Recognize what drives fear and why all our brains are susceptible to it
- Tara will share real stories and invite you to learn to tell your own stories to connect with parents and promote vaccine health
- Notably, she challenged the vocal anti-immunization activist Dr. Bob Sears and repeatedly debunks the most common misperceptions about vaccines and their risks, benefits and effectiveness
- Discover strategies for avoiding the burnout of vaccine hesitancy conversations that can dominate visits



Whack-a-mole. That's how they describe their office visits with parents like us.

Further, when clinical trials include research components that seek to find HOW to make more people get MORE SHOTS, when "behavioral research" is being done to find the best way to "steer" conversations toward MORE VACCINATIONS, I ask you, why is the Ohio AAP charting the course here? I implore you to do independent thinking, ask questions, and dig deeper here.

Here is an excerpt from a study that measured only behavioral outcomes of using promotional materials to increase adolescent vaccination:

"A School Health Center Initiative to Increase Adolescent Vaccination"

"Brief Summary: The study will evaluate a health services intervention to increase uptake of adolescent vaccines (HPV, Tdap, meningococcal conjugate, and influenza) among students enrolled in five school health centers by improving the consent process for parents."

Interventions: Behavioral: Modified Vaccine Consent Form

Packet of written immunization materials for parents and students which includes the following:

1. Cover letter
2. Vaccine promotional flyer
3. Vaccine information sheets (one for adolescent vaccination and one for other vaccination)
4. Improved consent form
5. Note advertising a lottery for free movie tickets for returning the consent form
6. Self-addressed stamped envelope

I implore each one of you to dig deep into this issue and ask some very difficult questions and evaluate what you have been taught, what you know, and what you need to find out. I am grateful for the compassion, thought and concern many of you have already demonstrated.

A yes vote on this bill would force Ohio parents to visit an individual licensed to sell and administer vaccine products. I am curious if we can brainstorm one other industry that has managed to find legislators who will pass a law that forces consumers to visit a seller of a product to be informed why they need the product? When that product has publicly failed, again and again? Both failed to protect (do its job, mumps) and failed as in injured and killed. Maybe there's more to this. Why are more and more people declining vaccines?

Also, it is important to reflect upon this question. Is one life lost to vaccines something we should be celebrating, because they sacrificed their life for the herd? I'm not talking about some sorcery, this is the CDC I'm quoting. And, unfortunately, these same parents who have children that were injured or killed, are cast aside by the very medical professionals they entrusted.

I am forever grateful to every single educated mother, father, grandparent, and vaccine risk aware person who was brave enough to speak up and protect my children. I never thought twice about vaccine injury until I met my husband and learned that his brother had a clinically diagnosed neurological vaccine injury. He even has a medical exemption. But, when I explained this to my very first pediatrician, I was told, "He will 'probably' be fine. That type of reaction is rare."

With all due respect, no, I will not be going to visit a seller of vaccines to be told why a vaccine will "probably" be ok for my child and ask them to sign off on my wishes. This is not freedom. That is not good science or good medical practice. The children of Ohio do not deserve this attack on their religious freedoms. I implore you, to take the doctor out of the equation when it comes to deeply held convictions and personal decisions parents make.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Thank You,

Megan Elder

Megan Elder, M.Ed.

Study Link:

<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT01595542?term=increase+vaccination&rank=10>