

Testimony of Laurel Ljubi
Ohio Senate Health and Human Services and Medicaid Committee
Re: SCR10
Opposition Testimony
Date: February 26, 2020

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Minority Member Antonio and members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on my opposition to SCR10.

I am concerned about the content of SCR10. In particular, I am concerned with the proposed OAC 3701-36-05 for the following reasons:

- 1) Using money to punish county health departments whose citizens decline a pharmaceutical product is inappropriate and unethical.
- 2) Government should not be using financial incentives to push a for-profit pharmaceutical product that is indemnified from liability.
- 3) Public posting of vaccine product consumption rates does not reflect true immunization rates.

To illustrate point 3 further, I have included a couple of news articles and a Center for Disease Control reference. The first article details nearly 50 California students and 90 Los Angeles residents coming down with pertussis (AKA whooping cough), despite being vaccinated. The second article details a U.S. Naval ship that had to be quarantined for months due to a mumps outbreak amongst the fully-vaccinated U.S. military personnel. Lastly, I want to bring the committee's attention to Appendix G from the CDC's Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases publication. Table G illustrates the vaccine coverage rates for specific illnesses over the years. **Polio was eliminated in the United States in 1979. The national vaccine coverage during that year was 59.7%.** I hope that these few examples bring to light that vaccination coverage does not equate to immunization rates. These examples illustrate that despite total vaccine compliance, outbreaks of the vaccine preventable illness can and do occur. Conversely, lower vaccine coverage has resulted in the elimination of polio nation-wide.

Thank you for reading my written testimony,

Laurel Ljubi

Reference Links:

<https://ktla.com/2019/03/16/despite-vaccination-nearly-50-harvard-westlake-students-catch-whooping-cough/>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/mumps-outbreak-on-us-warship-is-over-after-5-months-quarantined-at-sea-2019-5>

Appendix G

Vaccine Coverage Levels – United States, 1962-2009

Year	DTP 3+	DTP4+	Polio 3+	MMR*	Hib3+	Var	PCV3+	HepB3+	Combined 4-3-1	Combined 4-3-1-3
1962	67.3									
1963	71.4									
1964	74.6									
1965	72.7									
1966	74.0									
1967	77.9			60.0						
1968	76.8			61.5						
1969	77.4			61.4						
1970	76.4			58.4						
1971	77.8			62.2						
1972	74.1			62.8						
1973	71.7		59.5	61.0						
1974	72.4		60.0	63.4						
1975	73.2		63.6	65.5						
1976	72.7		61.3	66.3						
1977	69.6		62.6	65.0						
1978	66.6		59.5	63.6						
1979	64.4		59.7	66.5						
1980	66.0		58.9	66.6						
1981	68.1		59.2	66.8						
1982	67.1		57.0	67.6						
1983	65.4		56.9	66.3						
1984	65.0		53.2	65.8						
1985	63.6		53.6	61.2						
1986†										
1987†										
1988†										
1989†										
1990†										
1991	68.8		53.2	82.0						
1992	83.0	59.0	72.4	82.5	28.2			8.0	68.7	55.3
1993	88.2	72.1	78.9	84.1	55.0			16.3	67.1	
1994	93.0	77.7	83.0	89.0	86.0			37.0	75.0	
1995	94.7	78.5	87.9	87.6	91.7			68.0	76.2	74.2
1996	95.0	81.1	91.1	90.7	91.7	16.0		81.8	78.4	76.5
1997	95.5	81.5	90.8	90.5	92.7	25.9		83.7	77.9	76.2
1998	95.6	83.9	90.8	92.0	93.4	43.2		87.0	80.6	79.2
1999	95.9	83.3	89.6	91.5	93.5	57.5		88.1	79.9	78.4
2000	94.1	81.7	89.5	90.5	93.4	67.8		90.3	77.6	76.2
2001	94.3	82.1	89.4	91.4	93.0	76.3		88.9	78.6	77.2
2002	94.9	81.6	90.2	91.6	93.1	80.6	40.8	88.9	78.5	77.5
2003	96.0	84.8	91.6	93.0	93.9	84.8	68.1	92.4	82.2	81.3
2004	95.9	85.5	91.6	93.0	93.5	87.5	73.2	92.4	83.5	82.5
2005	96.1	85.7	91.7	91.5	93.9	87.9	82.8	92.9	83.1	82.4
2006	95.8	85.2	92.9	92.4	93.4	89.3	87.0	93.4	83.2	82.3
2007	95.5	84.5	92.6	92.3	92.6	90.0	90.0	92.7	82.8	81.1
2008		84.6	93.6	92.1	90.9	90.7	80.1 [‡]	93.5		
2009	94.0	83.9	92.8	90.0	92.1	89.6	92.6	92.4	81.5	

Despite Vaccination, Nearly 50 Harvard-Westlake Students Caught With Whooping Cough

POSTED 6:26 AM, MAY 10, 2011 BY LOS ANGELES TIMES



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Nearly 50 students at Harvard-Westlake School have been recently diagnosed with whooping cough, in an outbreak that has forced school officials to send students home at the first sign of illness.



Harvard-Westlake School is seen in Studio City in an undated image. (Credit: Katie Falkenberg / Los Angeles Times)

But all of the sick students had been vaccinated against the disease, according to school officials. In fact, all 90 people who have recently come down with pertussis — the official name for whooping cough — in Los Angeles County this year had been immunized against it, according to county officials.

It turns out that four years after someone receives the booster shot in about the seventh grade, the vaccine's protection nearly vanishes, endangering high schoolers such as those at Harvard-Westlake, said Dr. James Cherry, a UCLA expert on pediatric infectious diseases.

"It is not surprising at all," Cherry said of the recent cases.

Read the full story on LATimes.com.

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A US warship hit hard by the mumps is finally virus-free after being quarantined at sea for months

Ryan Pickrell May 2, 2019, 1:43 PM



Hospitalman Jessica Ferguson, left, immunizes Logistics Specialist 1st Class Willson Villavilencio aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Donald Cook (DDG 75). U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Theron J. Godbold

■ **The USS Fort McHenry appears to finally be virus-free after an outbreak of the mumps left the ship quarantined at sea for around**



A viral mumps outbreak that left a deployed US Navy warship quarantined at sea for around four months is finally under control.

US military personnel aboard the USS Fort McHenry, a Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship carrying sailors and Marines with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, began falling ill and were diagnosed with viral parotitis shortly after the ship departed Mayport Naval Station in Florida in mid-December.

The Navy later clarified that affected personnel appeared to be suffering from a probable case of the mumps. By early April, the number of affected service members had risen to 28, roughly 4% of the 703 people on board.

Read More: *A rare virus outbreak at sea has left a US Navy warship quarantined for over 2 months*

Outbreaks of influenza and other common illnesses occur every year aboard Navy vessels, but this situation was a bit different as US troops are vaccinated against the mumps.



Read More: *The Navy's fighting to get a rare viral mumps outbreak under control after it stranded a US warship at sea*

"It is not common for us to see outbreaks of vaccine-preventable viral infections," the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery previously told BI, adding that while "vaccines are effective at reducing the incidence and severity of vaccine-preventable diseases," the mumps portion of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is only 88% effective, suggesting that a vaccinated person could still be infected.

Whidbey Island-class amphibious dock landing ship USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) prepares for an underway replenishment-at-sea with USNS Kanawha (T-AO 196) and USS New York (LPD 21) Jan. 9, 2015. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jonathan B. Trejo



The USS Fort McHenry was quarantined during viral outbreak. It has gone 112 days without a port call, which is exceptionally rare as port visits typically occur every month or so. The record was set by the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt in 2002 when it spent 160 days at sea due to war-time operations.

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The USS Fort McHenry's last port visit was to Constanta, Romania, where it stayed for four days before departing on January 10.

The situation aboard the ship has improved, and the quarantine is over. "All have made a full recovery and returned to duty." US Fifth Fleet told BI. "The ship has resumed movement of personnel on and off the ship." The ship has not yet made a port call though.

When the virus first began to spread, sick service members were quarantined aboard the vessel and treated in the onboard medical facilities while their living areas were cleaned and disinfected.

The Navy also sent medical professionals out to the ship to provide additional support, and to be on the safe side, the personnel aboard the ship were given a MMR booster for added protection.



While the quarantine has ended, Fifth Fleet continues to exercise caution. Military "personnel departing the ship must pass a rigorous pre-transfer medical screening process established to mitigate/prevent spreading the illness," a spokesperson for the fleet told BI.

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The last active mumps case was April 2. The incubation period for the mumps is 25 days. A situation like this cannot be considered fully resolved until two full incubation periods have passed without incident. "This ensures that the virus is no longer spreading, as infected individuals sometimes show no symptoms of illness," BUMED previously explained.

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