

Testimony of Nadera Lopez-Garrity
House Bill 49 – State Operating Budget
Opposition to Ohio Chapter AAP proposal on vaccination requirements.
May 23, 2017

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chairman Tavares and members of the Senate Finance and Medicaid Subcommittee, thank you for your time and attention to this written testimony on a very sensitive matter.

I am providing testimony in opposition to the proposed budget-based amendment by the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, which would require school immunization exemptions based on reasons of conscience, including religious, to be signed by a physician or licensed healthcare provider.

As a parent of a 3-year old child who has been adversely affected by the indiscriminate use of a vaccination regime administered under the care of a licensed pediatrician in the state of Ohio, I do not want my child to be mentally and emotionally harmed any further. My child suffered neurological damage as a direct result of a combination of vaccinations that were administered by a practitioner in accordance to the CDC schedule. A schedule that has NEVER been tested for safety as it combines multiple vaccines in a single visit, each of which contains known neurotoxic ingredients that are injected subcutaneously at levels that exponentially exceed the FDA's and EPA's recommended standards. Furthermore, each vaccine contains a lengthy list of known adverse reactions, including death, none of which I was warned about by my daughter's pediatrician since it is not customary to disclose such crucial information to parents, like it otherwise would be expected of other pharmaceutical products.

I am aware that Dr. Sean Gallagher, a pediatric resident and representative of the Ohio chapter of the AAP, provided testimony on May 16 before the Finance – Health and Medicaid Subcommittee, in favor of the proposed budget-based amendment. In his testimony, Dr. Gallagher asserts:

“Firstly, these forms would need to be signed by a physician or other licensed health care provider. This ensures a parent will receive information from an expert focusing on the actual facts on vaccination. This is vital in an era of pervasive misinformation and pseudoscience readily available on social media and the internet. Michigan adopted a similar requirement and saw a 35% decrease in opt outs in a single year.”

Dr. Gallagher infers that a physician or other health care providers will be informing parents based on the actual facts of vaccination. Presumably the “facts” he is referring to are based on assertions made by the CDC and the very pharmaceutical companies who stand to profit from today's vaccination regimes. As previously stated, I was NEVER informed of the facts, which includes the known risks associated with vaccinations, a procedure that I later learned was deemed “unavoidably unsafe” by the Supreme Court in 2011 and safeguarded by The National Childhood Injury Act of 1986, the latter of which was established to protect manufactures and healthcare providers from liability as a result of the injuries and deaths associated with vaccines.

Speaking as a mother, I have direct first-hand factual evidence that Dr. Gallagher and others like him prefer to turn a blind eye to by dismissing the FACT that there are known risks associated with vaccines. Risks that account for, but are not limited to, approximately \$3.6 billion (tax-payer) dollars that has been granted as compensation to families by the National Vaccine Injury program since its inception. It is an alarming amount considering that less than 1% of vaccine adverse events are reported to the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). Like many parents, I watched as my only daughter underwent an overnight change that was directly correlated to her vaccinations. I can identify precisely when the changes overcame her and took away her beautiful smile, expressiveness and communication skills that were not only meeting, but also exceeding developmental milestones. I know exactly when the vaccination served to disrupt her wellbeing and forever alter our lives.

Considering the aforementioned facts and my family's personal experience, I am absolutely appalled that a health care provider would assert that a parent is incapable of making an informed decision on what is right for their child and require a doctor's signature to approve an exemption decision. Especially when there are esteemed doctors who fail to ensure the safety of children like my daughter and provide true informed consent based on the facts. In today's litigious society, the practicality of a medical professional signing an exemption document is highly suspect. It is particularly true when parents refusing a vaccination regime are summarily dropped from a pediatric practice and left to fend for themselves, which further shows how this matter has caused certain practitioners who have taken the Hippocratic Oath to lose all perspective on what true health care entails.

As with any aspect of assuming responsibility regarding the overall wellbeing, health and care of one's own child, research on the part of the parents who have first-hand knowledge of their children, accompanied by the consultation of a health care provider may be recommended to ensure the safety of an individual on occasion. However, suggesting that a doctor sign-off on a parent's informed decision on how to best protect and preserve the health of their child, whether it is for reasons of conscience or otherwise, is neither a requirement nor constitutional.

I strongly urge that you not be misguided on this issue and that you preserve the fundamental rights of individuals to accept or decline interventions, including vaccinations, by evaluating our own risk/benefit analysis based on the facts, experience and reasons of conscience that take into account religious beliefs.

I thank you for your time and I hope you will take this information into consideration while considering the proposed amendment from AAP.

Sincerely,
Nadera Lopez-Garrity

Resources:

- (1) H.R.5546 - National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/99th-congress/house-bill/5546>
- (2) About the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program
<https://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/about/>
- (3) Vaccine Injury Compensation Data
<https://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/data/index.html>
- (4) Electronic Support for Public Health–Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (ESP:VAERS)
<https://healthit.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/docs/publication/r18hs017045-lazarus-final-report-2011.pdf>
- (5) FDA Product Approval: Vaccine index
<http://www.immunize.org/fda/>