

Hello,

My name is Angela, and I am writing today in regards to the proposed amendment to HB49. I am personally opposed to the any amendment that forces a parent to have their vaccine exemption forms signed by their physicians. Physicians are already making rules that you cannot be seen in their offices if children are not vaccinated. We as parents should continue to be allowed to make all decisions concerning our children's medical health.

Our youngest son was already on a delayed vaccine schedule because of our family history with autoimmune diseases and adverse reactions to vaccines. He is a genuinely laid back child, rarely crying. However, after receiving his first dose of DTaP he had a severe reaction. He went pale, cold and cried uncontrollable for 4 hours. I jumped online and found that these are severe reactions to the DTaP. According to the CDC 1 in 1000 children have the uncontrolled crying. The going pale and cold to the touch has only been official reported so few of times that they do not have an official statistics. He also developed a rash on his thigh that lasted a month. Our doctor agreed it was a severe reaction but felt it was still safe to go ahead and give him another vaccine, although the CDC itself warns against this. I absolutely refused to do so and about a year later, after much frustration I was told that their office would no longer see patients who do not get the DTap and MMR, out of threat to other patients.

It is important to know I went through several doctors with my two older children. My oldest son is adopted and has high functioning autism. My middle son has a history of seizures. I have worked with children with special need for over 20 years and have learned a lot. I believe my current physician is outstanding in the field. He is very knowledgeable and has helped us personally through many crisis situations. So as I'm sure you can imagine, when his office determined that we could not be seen there unless we received these two highly controversial vaccines, regardless of my son's reactions, I was heartbroken.

I spoke with many doctors at Nationwide Children's hospital and explained my son's reaction. All agreed it was scary and something to be concerned about. One doctor told me of the Immunology clinic at Nationwide that specializes in smaller doses in a more controlled atmosphere. I shared this with my doctor and he worked until he found out everything he could and sent us. My son has received the DTaP Vaccine in half doses and one half dose MMR. He has reacted and it has been confirmed that he is allergic to some component in the vaccines. However, doctors still feel benefits of a vaccine outweigh what could happen with him. We have been given the daunting task of deciding what we will do in the future.

If we choose to not go forward with vaccinating our son then we should not need a physician's approval on the exemption forms. This should be entirely left to us, his parents.

I appreciate your time and strongly urge you to not support an amendment that requires physician signatures for exemption forms.

Sincerely,

Angela Hatzipavlis