

Common Statement to Oppose Bills to Restrict Exemption Rights

Whereas vaccines are commercial products legally considered to be “unavoidably unsafe,” like all prescription drugs;

Whereas Congress passed the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act in 1986 (1986 Act), acknowledging that vaccines can cause severe injury and death;

Whereas Congress in the 1986 Act granted almost complete liability protection to vaccine manufacturers and healthcare practitioners for vaccine injuries;

Whereas Congress in the 1986 Act created the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) to compensate for vaccine injuries and death;

Whereas Congress in the 1986 Act legislated that no petitioner may bring a lawsuit for any vaccine injury or death from a federally-recommended vaccine in any court except the NVICP;

Whereas Congress intended the NVICP to be a speedy, non-adversarial, no-fault program with no need to prove vaccine injury causation;

Whereas the NVICP is slow, adversarial, requires proof of causation for more than 90% of claims and dismisses most claims;

Whereas the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2011 in *Bruesewitz v. Wyeth* that no petitioner may state a claim for vaccine design defect in any court at any time;

Whereas the Institute of Medicine and peer-reviewed scientific literature acknowledge that many questions remain unanswered about vaccine safety and science;

Whereas the number of federally-recommended vaccine doses for children has tripled since Congress passed the 1986 Act;

Whereas all states in the United States mandate vaccination of children before they can attend daycare, preschool or school;

Whereas no state has required screening procedures to determine whether children are fit subjects for vaccination;

Whereas individuals may oppose vaccination for themselves and their children on religious, philosophical, medical and personal grounds;

Whereas the global human rights standard for ethical medicine is prior, free and informed consent to all medical procedures, including preventive ones;

Whereas most developed countries, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, protect the right of citizens to prior, free and informed consent for vaccination;

THEREFORE, we now affirm the right for all individuals, including parents and guardians on behalf of children or incapacitated adults, to prior, free and informed consent to vaccination, which is a preventive medical procedure. We oppose any law or policy that would coerce people to vaccinate against their religious, philosophical, medical or personal beliefs. Thus, **we oppose SB An Act to Remove the Personal Belief Vaccine Exemption**

Organic Consumers Association
Weston A. Price Foundation
National Health Federation
Foundation for Pediatric Health
National Health Freedom Coalition
The Canary Party
Health Choice
Autism Action Network
SafeMinds
Age of Autism
Autism Media Channel
Voice for Your Health
National Health Freedom Action
The Greater Good
The Thinking Moms' Revolution
SaneVax Inc.
GreenMedInfo
Your Family, Your Choice
Maine Coalition for Vaccine Choice
Indiana Coalition for Vaccine Choice
Vermont Coalition for Vaccine Choice
Vaccine Safety Council of Minnesota
The Texas Health Freedom Coalition
Focus for Health Foundation
Elizabeth Birt Center for Autism Law and Advocacy