



February 22, 2017

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

RE: Testimony in opposition of SB 840- AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING IMMUNIZATION RATES. .

Elissa Diamond-Fields, DC, Director of Outreach and Education, Health Freedom Action Connecticut

Distinguished committee members, I want to thank you for this opportunity to address SB 840. I am writing today on behalf of Health Freedom Action CT. We are a grassroots 501c4 organization here in CT, with the mission of protecting health freedom rights, and the right to full and free informed consent for CT citizens. Our 800+ members represent residents across the state, and are made up of physicians, nurses, other allied health professionals, teachers, lawyers, professionals, and people from all walks of life who want to protect their rights to freely choose how they utilize medical products, and medical interventions for themselves and their families.

We have several deep concerns regarding SB 840.

**There is no compelling reason to raise this legislation. Our state boasts one of the country's highest school immunization rates at over 98%, and there have been no major outbreaks to speak of. Why is this being proposed?**

This type of legislation was responsible for pitting parent against parent in California after the Disneyland measles outbreak in 2014 /2015, which ultimately led to the removal of California's only non-medical exemption to school vaccines. That outbreak totaled about 133 people in a country of 300 million, and yet was used to fuel a flurry of bills across the country aimed at restricting and removing non-medical exemptions. SB 840 may lead to discrimination and is designed to incite community pressure on a minority group either practicing a religious belief, or with a medical contraindication to vaccination.

As with several other vaccination related bills this session, this seems to be based on the idea that we need to force 100% compliance to be "safe" from outbreaks. This idea is misguided, is not supported by scientific literature, and is driven by industry, and by Healthy people 2020 goals. Outbreaks of measles has wavered up and down since the supposed "eradication" in 2002, and has occurred in [highly vaccinated communities](#), some 100%.

Across the country, our average % of schoolchildren with non medical exemptions is around 2%, and, the AAP unbelievably appears to be leading the movement to remove non-medical exemptions. There are however, growing [groups of doctors](#) speaking out on the need to protect informed consent, and to individualize our one size fits all vaccine program. There certainly are more parents and adults across the country opting out of one or more vaccines as our schedule recommendations have ballooned, and you must ask yourself why, before bulldozing people's inalienable rights to informed consent, bodily integrity and religious free practice. .

Only when you truly grasp the deep conflicts of interest within the CDC and trade groups like the AAP, can one understand how doctors and the general public believe we need to be battling infectious diseases in this county, as opposed to looking at how the largest vaccination schedule in the world might be impacting the chronic health crisis our children are facing today.

We sincerely hope you will take the time to look more deeply into this very complicated subject, and oppose this unnecessary, overreaching and dangerous legislation..

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at all, and thank you again for your service to your community and our state.

Sincerely,

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