



Protecting Child Health & Preserving Parent Choice
YES on HB 1288: Information re: Personal Belief Exemptions for Immunization Requirements
(Rep. Pabon / Senator Aguilar)

Passed House with bi-partisan vote: 42-19

What Does the Bill Do: HB 1288 was amended in Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs committee to eliminate the portion of the bill that requires parents electing a personal belief exemption to either get a medical provider's signature or complete an online education module – the required parent education.

The bill will still include the following provisions:

- (1) Directs CDPHE to **create an online, evidence-based education module about the benefits and risks of vaccine** that will be available publicly as a resource for parents and others who may have questions and are seeking credible, current and evidence-based information regarding vaccines. **There is no requirement that parents view this prior to electing a personal belief exemption.**
- (2) Directs the Board of Health at CDPHE to promulgate rules regarding the frequency that child care centers and schools must collect vaccine exemption forms. Today, no such guidance is provided.
- (3) Requires schools (as defined in this section of statute, the term "schools" includes **child care centers and K-12 schools**) to **make available upon request information re: the immunization and exemption rate in their school.**
- (4) Directs CDPHE to work with other state agencies (likely CDHS and HCPF) to establish a policy on immunization data collection.
- (5) Directs **CDPHE to provide technical assistance to schools** (again, K-12 and child care) regarding how to analyze and interpret immunization data.

Reasons to Vote YES on HB 1288:

- ✓ The new online educational resource, data collection policy and technical assistance to schools components are all valuable in **ensuring we have more credible, evidence-based information about vaccines and vaccination exemption** in Colorado available to parents, educators and state policymakers.
- ✓ Requiring new Board of Health regulations re: the frequency of exemptions is **valuable to ensuring parents actively affirm their decision of whether or not to vaccinate their children with some regularity.** Environments and circumstances change. We have experienced a pertussis epidemic in Colorado and are seeing the return of measles in other states. With these environmental changes, parents may want to reconsider their choices and this provision ensures that they do so on a regular basis.
- ✓ Finally, the transparency component of requiring schools to disclose their immunization and exemption rates is valuable in terms of **arming parents with good information about choosing the right child care center or school for their child.** It is especially important for the parents of medically fragile kids who are at higher risk for vaccine preventable diseases.
- ✓ It is a **thoughtful solution** endorsed by the majority of participants in a 2013 statewide stakeholder process. It is **backed by parents, health experts and educators** and enjoys **bi-partisan support.**

House Bill 1288 Supporters

All Kids Covered
American Academy of Pediatrics – Colorado Chapter
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Colorado Chapter
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Boulder County Health Department
Children’s Hospital Colorado
Clayton Early Learning
Colorado Academy of Family Physicians
Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children
Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials
Colorado Association of School Nurses
Colorado BioScience Association
Colorado Children’s Campaign
Colorado Children’s Immunization Coalition
Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved
Colorado Medical Society
Colorado PTA
Democrats for Education Reform
Denver Health
Denver Public Health
Early Childhood Summit
Every Child By Two - Carter/Bumpers Champions for Immunization
Healthy Child Care Colorado
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Immunization Action Coalition
Larimer County Board of Health
March of Dimes, Colorado Chapter
Meningitis Angels
Mile High United Way
National Jewish Health
Nurses Who Vaccinate
Padres & Jovenes Unidos
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
Public Health Nurses Association of Colorado
Qualistar Colorado
The Colorado Health Foundation
The Immunization Partnership
Rocky Mountain Health Plans
Vaccinate for Healthy Schools
Voices for Vaccines