



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