



Large Majority of Coloradans Support Childhood Vaccinations

What people are saying outside of the Capitol about childhood vaccinations and House Bill 14-1288, which preserves parental choice while tightening opt-out rules to protect public health.

POLLING:

- New polling in eight Colorado Senate Districts show support for House Bill 14-1288 ranges from 55 percent to 73 percent. The polling was conducted by Public Policy Polling March 27 to March 30 on behalf of the Colorado-based Citizen Survey Project.
- An online Denver Post poll April 11 showed 56 percent of more than 3,800 responders support asking parents to get accurate information before deciding whether to vaccinate children.

OPINION:

"I respect personal beliefs, but not when they're dangerous, such as when my children must share classroom space with disease carriers whose parents reject scientific fact. Likewise, I don't support personal beliefs that favor bringing weapons into the school or selling drugs on the playground. And if someone believes it's OK to drive drunk, I don't support that either. In other words, the protection of personal beliefs isn't some non-negotiable core American value as the anti-vaxxers — those opposing vaccination — contend." — Gordon MacKinney, Fort Collins business owner, *Coloradoan*, March 12, 2014

"A misconception about vaccination is that natural disease is much better for immunity than vaccine protection. Why expose your child to another infected child? Vaccines often protect against multiple strains of a disease and do not cause the disease. There is a price to pay for natural infection, which includes severe complications such as meningitis, encephalitis, birth defects, cancer, intellectual problems, pneumonia and severe skin infections (from chickenpox). Support House Bill 1288, in the Colorado Legislature, which would mandate parents be educated about vaccines before they sign a personal-belief exemption." — Dr. Christine Nevin-Woods, director of the Pueblo City-County Health Department, *The Pueblo Chieftain*, March 9, 2014

"Colorado has one of the higher opt-out rates in the country, due in large part to the personal belief exemption. Recent outbreaks of whooping cough, which can be devastating to infants, are a potent reminder of the kinds of illnesses that can proliferate when we let down our guard on immunizations." — *Denver Post Editorial Board*, Feb. 20, 2014

Other thoughts on childhood vaccinations from around the country:

"Vaccines protect our neighbors — like following traffic laws, drug tests at work, paying taxes — they are a shared responsibility." — Dr. Kristin Feemster, Pediatrician, *New York Times*, March 23, 2014

"When you choose not to have your child immunized you're cheating other kids. Their vaccinations protect your child...If you feel that strongly that immunization is not a good idea, then don't send you kids to school. Don't make other children, or your child, suffer." — Dr. Jocelyn Elders, former Surgeon General of the United States, *New York Times*, March 23, 2014

While there is a very vocal minority of Coloradans opposed to vaccinations, it's important to remember that House Bill 1288 preserves their right not to vaccinate their children.

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

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