

Re: HB 209

Dear Representatives,

Upon thoughtful consideration, and with the guidance of a board certified pediatrician, I have implemented an alternative immunization schedule for my son. This, of course, puts him out of sync with the current vaccination schedule required for school admittance.

Currently, mothers like me are forced to sign a religious waiver. However, this would be disingenuous for me to do since I am not an adherent to any religious denomination whose teachings are opposed to immunizations. Rather, I have chosen an alternative vaccination schedule because, as a matter of conscience and personal belief, I am opposed to certain ingredients in some vaccines, the source of some of those ingredients and how they were derived, the quantity of certain ingredients, and the bundling of certain ingredients. I believe that safer alternatives are available and that those alternatives will not be made available unless the general public is given a chance to demand them. How can I do that if the state is demanding I adhere to the current schedule?

Although I understand that I can sign a religious waiver, and no school official is allowed to press me for details, I would prefer a more honest approach. I would appreciate being able to sign a waiver that includes the language “for reasons of conscience or personal beliefs” since it is not my religious denomination barring me from following the current schedule but my own personal beliefs after much thoughtful research.

Most importantly, I believe it is *my* responsibility and my *right* to make informed decisions about my son’s health care, free from involvement from groups who do not know him and his medical history, his parents, our lifestyle, etc.

Please support the language in HB 209 and provide a waiver for mothers like me. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Joy Bourdess
8113 Mackey Street
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