

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing this testimonial on behalf of public safety for my community. As a mother and a nurse I am concerned for my children's health and safety if the law passes to allow for personal belief exemption for vaccines. I have had several people in the past ask "why should I worry about my own children if I get them vaccinated shouldn't they be ok?" No vaccine is 100% effective, but with herd immunity we can protect our children from diseases that haunted our ancestors. What about the children that can't be immunized due to true medical exemptions? Is it fair to put these children at risk for someone else's personal belief that vaccines are not natural and it is safer to contract the actual disease? Parents today do not have a reason to fear these diseases. Most have never had to see someone suffer with these diseases, thanks to immunizations. Take chicken pox for example; many people believe that chicken pox is safe because it has a lower mortality rate than some other diseases. Before the vaccine, on average one to two healthy children died every week in the United States from chicken pox complications. Tell that to the mother who lost her child to a "safe disease."

Through experience from working at a local health department, I see parents bring children in first thing in the morning to get their vaccines. This is because the school will not allow them to return until they have received the vaccine. If we allow parents to have the choice of taking their child to the doctor for a vaccine or just having a personal belief waiver signed, too many parents are going to agree to a personal belief against vaccines for convenience. We can't risk our children's safety for convenience. If immunization rates begin to drop, we will see an increase in diseases. These diseases are still circulating in other countries of the world and will make it back to the United States if we allow it.

Sincerely,

Jessie Swisher, RN
Immunization Coordinator
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