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To the Sponsors of Bill HB1288, I respectfully ask that you withdraw support for this bill. Representative Pabone is quoted as saying it is intended to "close the convenience loophole." This assumes that dissenting parents are lazy and this bill will get them in to the doctor's office where they will pay for that pro-vaccination instructional appointment.

This bill assumes that there is no acceptable disagreement with its premises regarding immunity and public health. It pushes a one sided agenda. An informed decision is not so simple. There are important risks and consequences with vaccinating or not vaccinating.

The discussion of safety and effectiveness of vaccines is not over. The viruses aren't going anywhere. Even if we vaccinate everybody, it is generally well known and experienced that they continue to mutate and strengthen. We will have to find additional solutions far into the future for ways to develop stronger immune systems. So please don't give our freedoms away in order to coerce a "high rate of immunization." That solution is temporary.

This bill purposely incorporates an inconvenient, costly, punitive procedure, with bureaucratic implications for Dept of Education, Dept of Public Health, State Board of Health, Dept of Human Services, schools, physician offices and other immunizing agencies and dissenting parents.

The language in this bill speaks of vaccines as a great 20th century achievement. It does not address the spotty safety history of vaccine development. There is considerable concern regarding vaccines, when the expectation is that given a minimal amount of information about a vaccine, parents are supposed to just say yes to having it injected into their child. The parents who do the research and have questions are about to be penalized if this bill goes forward.

It's commonly accepted that "high rates of immunization are needed to prevent the spread of vaccine preventable illnesses." But, not all vaccine preventable illnesses are serious illnesses. It is promoted as "cost effective" to require certain vaccines. If you consider the cost of vaccine failure and vaccine injury the cost effectiveness is questionable.

Parents are not generally informed of the unimpressive degree of immunity that is actually acquired by vaccinated children. Antibody titers are rarely done as confirmation of immunity. This gives parents a false sense of protection for their child.

This bill is seductively making a case for removing freedoms using the tool of inconvenience to coerce a change in behavior of the citizen for someone else's agenda. I expect my representative to stand for and protect the rights of citizens to choose and not be tempted to trade our freedoms for something else, something inherently coercive and NOT conclusively for the "immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety."

Sincerely,

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