

Good afternoon. I have two children with severe allergies. These children have allergies ranging from triclosan to wheat with too many items in between to mention here. Every pharmaceutical product contains risks, including death. Given these risks combined with the potential allergic reaction to a vaccine component, I have great concerns about the administration of these drugs into my children. After much research, I have decided to delay the administration of vaccines in these children.

Is the government here to tell me I don't know what I am talking about? Is it the job of the government to require me to have a certain knowledge base approved by the government itself before I can make a decision concerning a medical procedure in my children? Does the government respect the God-given right of parents to make the best decisions for their children?

I find it insulting to assume that parents who delay or avoid some vaccines are ignorant and need the government to tell them what they need to know. To make such an assumption is very presumptuous. Do we assume that parents who do choose to vaccinate are educated enough to make that decision? Where do we draw the line that parents are educated enough to make any decision? With the increasing volume of mandated vaccines, vaccine exemption should be easier, not more difficult, to obtain. Not every vaccine is right for every child.

The number of mandated vaccines is increasing. According to the CDC's website on recommended immunizations, from birth through age 6, the CDC recommends 34 shots and from ages 7 to 18, 24 shots. That is 58 shots throughout childhood and the numbers keep increasing! The HPV vaccine alone now has 32 confirmed deaths from a disease that is completely preventable. Do parents have any right to say when enough is enough?

Decisions on which vaccines to give to our children and when, should be made by each family, accessing all available resources which the parents choose, including a private conversation with their doctor. Putting a wall up, which this bill does, between parents and their children's doctors does not lead to increased trust, communication, and care. Instead, forcing parents to try to get approval from a doctor develops an antagonistic relationship between the two.

This bill is stripping away parental rights by removing private decisions from the family and moving them to the government. We do not need more bureaucratic steps to walk through to make decisions for our families. The government should instead be looking to preserve the family unit and respect the rights therein. I urge you to not support this bill, and support families instead.

Tania Berg Jania Berg