

## Joy Brewer

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**From:** Jennifer <jj.temple@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2017 4:43 PM  
**To:** Joy Brewer  
**Subject:** Testimony to Support HB 4425- HB4426

Hello Ms Brewer,

I am writing today in support of HB 4425- HB4426.

I was present at the hearing this morning. Unfortunately I had to depart prior to afternoon testimony.

I would like to share my personal experience requesting a religious waiver at the Muskegon Co. Health Dept. in June 2015 prior to enrolling my then kindergartener.

I was asked my religion and which specific scriptures supported my beliefs about not vaccinating.

I informed her that it was inappropriate for a government employee to infringe upon my first amendment right to freedom of religion.

I do not have to answer to the government what my religious beliefs are nor give evidence to my personally and deeply held beliefs.

I was asked several more times to discuss my religion and once the nurse realized she would not get me to divulge that information she begrudgingly gave me my waiver.

There was no educational value to this appointment. I was not given risks involved in vaccinating only benefits, there is never one side to any story. I was also informed that by not vaccinating I am putting the community at risk of vaccine preventable illness which I do not believe to be true in the slightest, however we are not able to alter the language in the waiver or sign under duress or risk the waiver being deemed invalid. Essentially coercion in order for my child attain a public education as afforded them in the Michigan constitution.

In the past, as the statute states, the waiver could be written by the parent and given directly to the school administration.

The Rule requiring these "education meetings" and formal waiver with coercive language goes against the statute set forth by legislation since 1973.

Also, we are not asking that the health department not be able to send sick children home in the event of an outbreak.

We are asking that our healthy children not be excluded simply due to vaccine status. Children with Hepatitis B and HIV are not excluded from school because of their medical status, however communicable their diseases are, they have the right to education. Do those students rights outweigh the right of my children who are not exhibiting symptoms but would be excluded due to vaccine status?

I also posed the question, if students with waivers are excluded for the incubation period in an effort to "protect" them from becoming infected, would it not be advantageous to also excluded immune-compromised children in an effort to "protect" them from infection as well. I posed this question to the women from the health department who spoke to the committee at the close of the morning hearing. She stated that would be a CHOICE made between the local health authorities and the family of the immune compromised student. If this

rule were really to protect the health of students it would include those most valuable, not just those with waivers.

Thank you for your time.

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