

Joy Brewer

From: CONNIE <iamconniejohnson@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 1:17 PM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: Additional Testimony HB4425&4426
Attachments: Submitted Testimony for HB 4425.docx

Good Afternoon Ms. Brewer,

Thanks so much for allowing the submission of additional testimony for the hearing in the Education Committee today on HB 4425 & 4426. I am attaching and pasting within the body of this email for easy retrieval.

Kind Regards,

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Submitted Testimony for HB 4425 & 4426
Connie Johnson, Milford Michigan

The following excerpt appeared originally out of Kaiser Permanente.

<http://www.fiercehealthcare.com/practices/stealth-move-mich-refines-vaccine-waivers-improves-rate-among-kids>

"The idea was to make the process more burdensome," said Michigan State University Health Policy Specialist Mark Largent, who has written extensively about vaccines. "Research has shown that if you make it more inconvenient to apply for a waiver, fewer people get them. Michigan's experience demonstrates a way for governments to increase immunization rates without having to address religious or philosophical opposition to vaccines."

Many states adopt strategies to curb exemptions "by making applications complicated to fill out or complete," according to University of Georgia public policy expert W. David Bradford, who studies immunization. Some states require parents to notarize applications or have them certified by a physician before sending them in, and "generally speaking, anything that raises the opportunity cost [of exemptions] works to some degree," Bradford said. "*Michigan took it a step further.*"

"Health and Human Services wanted to do something, but the legislative option wasn't there," Largent said. Instead, Michigan decided to use a strategy he calls "inconvenience." Michigan offered the perfect vehicle for introducing inconvenience into the process. The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules reviews state agency regulations and, if it takes no action, allows them to go into effect after 15 legislative days. The committee is composed of lawmakers, giving it a legislative imprimatur, *but it is not the legislature itself*, thus avoiding the political rancor that can accompany debate on controversial issues. Instead, "by heightening the burden, you change some of the incentives" for obtaining waivers. "*Moral claims and ideology don't matter as much when it's inconvenient.*"

The above excerpt clearly states that 1) The only goal with this administrative rule is to increase vaccination rates and lower vaccination waiver rates---not the health and welfare of individuals. 2) By adding additional steps to the law through the rule to make it harder for parents to get a vaccine waiver, this "inconvenience" will essentially coerce parents into vaccinating against their better

judgement. 3) Circumventing the rights of a constituent to "avoid political rancor" is essentially the MDHHS deciding that it knows "what's best" for public health, even to the point of minimizing the importance of the legislative process guaranteed to us by the state constitution.

In closing, I feel that as a parent who has 2 children with adverse reactions to vaccinations, I don't need a health department visit to "educate" me. I rely upon my doctors, with whom I have an actual relationship with, to answer any medical based questions I have. Part of the relationship is called "informed consent", which doesn't occur in the health department sessions. There is zero value add. Finally, I find it *interesting* that the Health Department sent several dozen staffers to occupy the hearing room so that we constituents, who traveled great distances, could not sit in. I find it even more interesting that additional staffers went into the overflow rooms (there were 3) specifically to count how many attendees "our side" had. We are the people, constituents, parents, siblings, friends and neighbors. And our calling is based on the most basic human rights known to our species: to love, protect and raise our children without governmental interference permissible by our laws. I would like to thank the committee for taking time to read and hear additional testimony. Please support HB4425&4426!