

To the Health and Ambulance Services Committee,

I am opposing Public Health (Childcare Vaccination) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

As a mother and an educator I believe that excluding children from childcare based on their vaccination status is discrimination and will not achieve the desired results of a more fully vaccinated population with less disease outbreak. Families will be forced to make decisions they may not be comfortable with such as leaving the workforce to care for young children or vaccinating against their will. These are decisions that no family should be forced to make.

The reasons for my opinion include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Vaccinated individuals can still catch and spread whooping cough meaning that these individuals can still spread the disease any individual regardless of their vaccination status. This also means that vulnerable individuals such as young babies and the immunocompromised are not protected by 'herd immunity'.

Asymptomatic transmission and the resurgence of Bordetella pertussis

Benjamin M. Althouse and Samuel V. Scarpino

Published in Biomed Central:

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1741-7015/13/146>

- The measles virus can be caught by a vaccinated individual and passed on to another vaccinated individual meaning that the unvaccinated population cannot be blamed for all outbreaks of the disease.

Outbreak of Measles Among Persons With Prior Evidence of Immunity, New York City, 2011

Jennifer B. Rosen, Jennifer S. Rota, Carole J. Hickman, Sun Sowers, Sara Mercader, Paul A Rota, William, J. Bellini, Ada J. Huang, Margaret K. Doll, Jane R. Zucker, and Christopher M. Zimmerman.

Published in Oxford Journals:

<http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2014/02/27/cid.ciu105>

- As Hepatitis B is primarily spread through unsafe sex, injecting drugs and unclean body piercing equipment, parents should be able to decide if their baby is at risk of contracting the disease through the mother during pregnancy or if their baby/child is at a higher risk of contracting the disease during childhood. Families should be able to choose to delay the vaccine until they deem it necessary or to not have the vaccine at all.

-Better Health Victoria

http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Hepatitis_B_the_facts

- Family history of vaccine adverse events may make parents reluctant to vaccinate their children as a safety precaution; this decision is a valid reason to choose to remain unvaccinated.

Concluding notes:

Choosing to vaccinate is a personal decision based on a variety of factors that are unique to each individual and to each family. Excluding children from childcare based on vaccination status is discrimination and is in no way acceptable in our country Australia.

Kari Edwards



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