

Health and Ambulance Services Committee

From: Joseph Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 28 August 2015 2:28 PM
To: Health and Ambulance Services Committee
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Submission Re: Public Health (Childcare Vaccination) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Committee,

We write to make known to this Honourable Committee our vehement opposition to this Bill. While many will oppose what amounts to mandatory vaccination by reference to bio-medical arguments, such as the existence of adverse effects and the harms of vaccines (no medical procedure is completely risk-free), we believe that the issues in this debate are primarily moral and legal-political.

Rather than take the time-proven path of educating people about the alleged benefits of vaccination, the government is seeking to use the iron fist of legislation to force parents to vaccinate even if such parents sincerely believe that vaccinations are not in the best interests of their child. The long-standing principle of patients being able to make informed consent without coercion is thus violated. It is generally accepted that patient autonomy should not be overridden unless there are exceptional circumstances. Such exceptional circumstances do not yet exist with respect to this matter.

Unvaccinated children are not a health threat to vaccinated children because the very point of these children having a vaccine is to have immunity. Thus, it would only be the unvaccinated children who would be vulnerable, but that would be the moral choice of the parents.

The logical conclusion of the philosophical spirit of this Bill will be to have mandatory vaccination of the entire population for everything! Would the government ultimately contemplate vaccinating say 6 foot 6" high school boys by having police or army officers hold them down? If the principle of autonomy is not respected, then why not? We seem to be on a slippery slope to a major loss of freedom. We believe that society should not get on this slippery slope.

Again, this argument from liberty holds regardless of any concerns about the safety and effectiveness of vaccines.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to make this submission.

Sincerely,

Dr Joseph Wayne Smith PhD (Phil), PhD (Law), PhD (Med), D.Litt

Brittany Smith, Biology/Psychology student