

**A Submission to the Health and Community Services Committee Regarding the “Public Health Exclusion of Unvaccinated Children from Child Care Amendment Bill 2013.” From Aneeta Hafemeister.**

I write to the committee to express my deep concerns raised by this amendment. I feel it is unconscionable of the Government to bully parents into vaccinating their children. I do not believe in forced medication of any description. Vaccination is a medical procedure which can cause serious adverse reactions. As such it is imperative that parents retain the right to choose what is best for their children.

The Government should not have the right to discriminate against children because of their vaccination status. My own children are all unvaccinated except for my eldest child, who reacted very badly to the Hepatitis B vaccination at birth. I have spent years researching this issue and have come to the conclusion that for my children the risks of vaccination are not worth taking. Most parents of unvaccinated children are extremely well educated and do not take this decision lightly. I think the Government would be better served by engaging with the community on this issue instead of resorting to bullying tactics. I would love to see a full and open debate on this issue.

Legislation such as this amendment will do nothing to quell the growing community angst about vaccine reactions, it may indeed lead more people to question the status quo. The findings of the courts in America (Hannah Poling case) and Italy (Valentino Bocca case) that vaccines can cause autism should be reason enough for this Government to pause and reconsider their “vaccinate or else” policies.

On a personal level the proposed legislation will not affect my family. We do not use daycare facilities for our children, but on principle I am disgusted that the Government is limiting choices for other well educated parents who choose not to vaccinate. What will be next? No job, no school? No job, no public places? It is disgusting to think that in 2013 people can be discriminated against on the basis of their vaccination status.

I hope common sense prevails on this issue and parents retain the right to choose on this issue and are not sanctioned for doing so.