

Subject: Please oppose HB 1312

Date

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I am a medical doctor, having practiced family medicine now for over 50 years.

In this time span I have witnessed firsthand the unprecedented deterioration in the health of our nation's children due to chronic illnesses not preventable by vaccines. Infant and children's health and longevity in the US currently ranks lowest among industrialized nations, whereas in 1970 we ranked near the top. Today a staggering 54% of US children suffer from one or more of 20 chronic health conditions, and 19% of US children have a "special health need" that requires special educational services in their schools. (1)

This is a national crisis, yet it receives little or no attention from the media, from our government, nor from our public health agencies.

Instead, there is currently a wave of irrational fear and hysteria sweeping our country because a number of measles cases have occurred in the states of New York, Washington and elsewhere. The present PR company-driven media campaign is accompanied in many state legislatures by a spate of new bills restricting the rights of our nation's parents to make health care decisions for their children.

The right to make health care decisions for ourselves and our children is as fundamental in a democracy as the right to free speech, freedom of religion and freedom to bear arms. The founding father Benjamin Rush, who was a physician, had wanted to include medical freedom in the Bill of Rights!

HB 1312 would not only supplant the rights of parents, but also supplant the right of a physician to practice medicine freely according to his oath to serve the needs of his patients. HB 1312 would substantially delegate the practice of medicine to the state.

There are already quarantine laws in place to protect the public in the rare event of an epidemic of a communicable disease, so HB 1312 is totally unnecessary and unwarranted.

Measles cases continue to occur in our country, despite 95% of children having been vaccinated.

Even with a vaccination rate of 100%, measles cases would still occur because the live virus measles vaccination itself also can cause measles!

Research published a year after the great 2015 Disneyland measles scare revealed that almost 40% of the cases were caused by the specific type of measles virus used in the vaccine, not by the wild virus that circulates among the population. (2)

I urge you to vote no on HB 1312 and to instead focus your attention and concern on the true health crisis of chronic illness afflicting our nation's children, which continues to be ignored or denied by our public health establishment.

Sincerely Yours,

Philip F Incao, MD

- (1) Bethell CD, Kogan MD, Strickland BB, Schor EL, Robertson J, Newacheck PW. A national and state profile of leading health problems and health care quality for US children: key insurance disparities and across-state variations. *Acad Pediatr* 2011;11(3 Suppl):S22-S33.
- (2) Felicia Roy, Lillian Mendoza, Joanne Hiebert, Rebecca J. McNall, Bettina Bankamp, Sarah Connolly, Amy Lüdde, Nicole Friedrich, Annette Mankertz, Paul A. Rota, Alberto Severini. Rapid Identification of Measles Virus Vaccine Genotype by Real-Time PCR. **DOI:** 10.1128/JCM.01879-16 <https://jcm.asm.org/content/55/3/735>