

March 29, 2012

To: The Vermont Legislature, House Health Care Committee

Re: S. 199, H. 527, An Act Relating to Immunization Exemptions and the
Immunization Pilot Program

Honorable Vermont Legislators:

We all want the same thing: The best health for all concerned. I invite you to consider 3 distinctions that may help to reconcile the radically opposing views:

I. Philosophical exemptions address a non-medical, human rights issue. Vaccines cause permanent disability and death.¹ Doctors can't tell you whether or not *your* child will be disabled or killed by a vaccine. Scholars disagree on the utilitarian issue (should the individual be forced to risk injury or death for the presumed good of the whole?). Therefore, philosophical exemptions are a moral and ethical imperative.

However, the "benefit of the whole" presumption doesn't hold up to scrutiny:

- *There is insufficient data for a cost-benefit assessment:*
 - The FDA, CDC and other medical authorities report that only 1% to 10% of vaccine adverse events are reported.² *90% - 99% of vaccine harm goes unreported.*
 - Congressional testimony revealed that medical students are taught *not* to report vaccine adverse events,³ despite the federal reporting requirement.⁴
 - A survey found that as few as 2.5% of pediatricians (New York) report vaccine adverse events to the government.⁵
- *The benefit to the whole is unknown. Herd Immunity is disproved:*
 - 90 - 95% of 20th Century infectious disease decline *preceded* vaccines. Diseases with no vaccine declined along with diseases that did.⁶
 - Vaccine protection lasts from 2 to 10 years. The majority of our population consists of adults who were last vaccinated as children, and have been unprotected for decades. Diseases have not returned.⁷

II. We must distinguish between medical science and medical politics.

- *Polio was not eliminated by vaccines:*
 - In 1962, Dr. Bernard Greenberg, Biostatistics Department Head at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, testified before Congress that cases of polio *increased* substantially after the first polio vaccine was introduced—50% from 1957-58, and 80% from 1958-59—and that the Public Health Service *deliberately manipulated statistics to give the opposite impression.*⁸

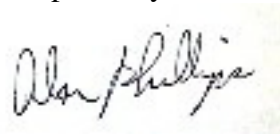
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- Polio declined in countries that didn't vaccinate, too.⁹
 - *Exemptions don't cause outbreaks:*
 - 5% - 15% of vaccinated children are not immune (CDC).¹⁰ Only 1% – 2.5% of children are exempt (JAMA),¹¹ and exempt children can get natural immunity, without even getting sick (CDC).¹² (Vermont DPH's 5.4% exempt figure includes partially vaccinated children.) *By far, most non-immune children are vaccinated!*
 - *Vaccines have not left us better off:*
 - The U.S. vaccinates more than any other country—twice the average of 30 western nations. Yet, the CIA Factbook lists the U.S. as 49th in infant mortality and the U.N. Population Division as 34th—well below that of other western nations.¹³
 - A 2011 study found that “nations that require more vaccine doses tend to have higher infant mortality rates.”¹⁴ There are 330+ vaccines on the market or in development.¹⁵
 - *There is substantial evidence connecting vaccines with autism:*
 - The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program has been compensating vaccine-injured children with autism for the past two decades (Pace Environmental Law Review).¹⁶
 - Published 2011 studies found: 1) A 1% increase in vaccination coverage results in 680 more autism cases,¹⁷ 2) “Documented causes of autism include . . . encephalitis following vaccination,”¹⁸ and 3) The correlation between aluminum in vaccines and autism may be causal.¹⁹

III. This is not a referendum on vaccination.

It's not about removing the mandate, it's about preserving an exception.

- This bill is not about whether vaccines are “good” or “bad”, it's about whether or not government should impose on citizens one view on an inherently complex issue on which experts disagree. The vaccine controversy needs an open, transparent forum, where all credible information may be fairly considered, in a true democratic process. We're asking you to preserve that form and process.
- The philosophical exemption allows parents to do some, but not all, vaccines, and to delay vaccines—positions that doctors increasingly support. Removing the exemption will make vaccines an “all or nothing” proposition.
- There are other proven ways to address infectious disease that work better, cost less, and are safe, they just don't profit the pharmaceutical industry.^{20, 21}

Respectfully Submitted,



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¹ HRSA, Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, Data and Statistics. Compensation payments to date exceed \$2 billion. <http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/data.html>

² (a) Less than 1%, according to Barbara Fisher, citing former FDA Commissioner David Kessler, 1993, JAMA, in the Statement of the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC), Hearing of the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, "Compensating Vaccine Injuries: Are Reforms Needed?", September 28, 1999; (b) Less than 10% according to KM Severyn, R. Ph., Ph.D. in the Dayton Daily News, May 23, 1993; (c) Only 10% according to the CDC as reported by the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Fact Sheet on Mandatory Vaccines, <http://www.aapsonline.org/testimony/mandvac.htm>

³ Jane Orient, M.D., Director of the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons, "Mandating Vaccines: Government Practicing Medicine Without a License?" 1999.

⁴ 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-25. Recoding and Reporting Information, National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.

⁵ Hepatitis B Vaccine Reaction Reports Outnumber Reported Disease Cases in Children According to Vaccine Safety Group, National Vaccine Information Center, January 27, 1999.

⁶ For one of many sources, see Immunization Graphs at <http://www.theoneclickgroup.co.uk/documents/vaccines/Immunization%20Graphs%20PPT%20-%20RO%202009.pdf>

⁷ Is herd immunity real? Russell Blaylock, M.D., Neurosurgeon, The Epoch Times, January 28, 2010, <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/health/forced-vaccinations-government-and-the-public-interest-27045.html>

⁸ Hearings Before the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, House of Representatives, 87th Congress, Second Session on H.R. 10541, May 1962, at 94.

⁹ The polio vaccine: a critical assessment of its arcane history, efficacy, and long-term health-related consequences, section 7, Neil Z. Miller, Thinktwice Global Vaccine Institute, <http://www.thinktwice.com/Polio.pdf>

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vaccines and Immunizations, Misconception #2. The majority of people who get disease have been vaccinated, <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/6mishome.htm>

¹¹ Non-medical Exemptions to School Immunization Requirements, The Journal of the American Medical Association, <http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/296/14/1757.full>, 2006.

¹² See, e.g., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vaccines and Immunizations, Glossary, "Asymptomatic infection: The presence of an infection without symptoms. Also known as inapparent or subclinical infection." <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/about/terms/glossary.htm>

¹³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_infant_mortality_rate

¹⁴ Infant mortality rates regressed against number of vaccine doses routinely given: Is there a biochemical or synergistic toxicity?, Human and Experimental Toxicology, http://www.thinktwice.com/HET_study.pdf

¹⁵ Pennsylvania Bio Issues Patient Impact Report on Vaccines, More than 330 vaccines in development or on the market to prevent life-threatening diseases, Business Wire, November 4, 2010, <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20101104006976/en/Pennsylvania-Bio-Issues-Patient-Impact-Report-Vaccines>

¹⁶ Unanswered Questions from the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program: A Review of Compensated Cases of Vaccine-Induced Brain Injury, Pace Environmental Law Review, Vol. 28, Issue 2 Winter 2011, <http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1681&context=pelr>

¹⁷ Delong G. A Positive Association found between Autism Prevalence and Childhood Vaccination uptake across the U.S. Population. J Toxicol Environ Health A. 2011 Jan;74(14):903-16. PMID: 21623535, <http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/view/241126>

¹⁸ Theoretical aspects of autism: cases—a review. Ratajczak, HV, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21299355>

¹⁹ Do aluminum vaccine adjuvants contribute to the rising prevalence of autism? Tomljenovic, L., Shaw, C., J Inorg Biochem, <http://omsj.org/reports/tomljenovic%202011.pdf>

²⁰ Successful Use of Homeopathy (homeoprophylaxis) In Over 2.5 Million People Reported From Cuba, <http://homeopathyresource.wordpress.com/2009/01/01/successful-use-of-homeopathy-in-over-5-million-people-reported-from-cuba/>

²¹ Vitamin D better than vaccines at preventing flu, report claims, The Sunday Times (U.K.), March 15, 2010, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/scotland/article7061778.ece>; *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* (Am J Clin Nutr (March 10, 2010). doi:10.3945/ajcn.2009.29094)