



# Resolution

## No. 2020-13

### **In Support of Removal of Personal Exemption Waivers in Wisconsin Schools and Day Care Centers**

**WHEREAS**, there are multiple important and potentially dangerous communicable diseases that are preventable by vaccinations currently required by Wisconsin law for school and day care attendance, and

**WHEREAS**, vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, are very contagious and can result in serious health complications, including pneumonia and encephalitis, and lead to death, and

**WHEREAS**, outbreaks of measles have impacted multiple states in 2019, and a number of other serious vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks have occurred in Wisconsin over the past two decades, and

**WHEREAS**, the effectiveness and safety of vaccines have been well established, and

**WHEREAS**, the Affordable Care Act has improved insurance coverage for vaccinations, which are readily available in medical offices and pharmacies, and public health departments continue to serve those eligible for the Vaccines for Children Program, and

**WHEREAS**, all states require certain vaccines for school entry in order to:

- a) assure that individual children do not contract disease in the social setting of school,
- b) protect other students from being at risk of disease and death from exposure to an individual student, and
- c) protect the broader community from these serious illnesses, including individuals who are immunocompromised and those who cannot receive vaccines for bona fide medical reasons, and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's immunization law Wis. Stat. § 252.04(3), Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 144.06, permits parents to opt out or waive some or all of the vaccinations required to attend school or group day care based on their personal beliefs, and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin is one of only 16 states that permits parents to opt out or waive some or all of the vaccinations required to attend school or group day care based on their personal beliefs, and

**WHEREAS**, several other states have recently removed personal belief exemptions from their legal codes, such that 34 states now prohibit the use of personal belief exemptions for school and day care immunizations, and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's percentage of students with religious and medical waivers have remained relatively constant over the past decade at less than 1%, but the percentage of students with a personal conviction waiver in Wisconsin has increased from 1.2% during the 1997-1998 school year to an alarming 4.6% during 2018-2019, and

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) and the Wisconsin Association

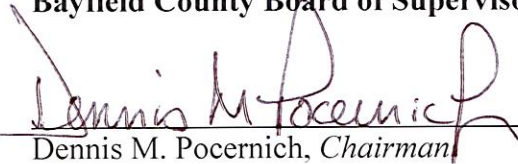
of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) support a change in school and day care center immunization law that eliminates personal conviction waivers for students in Wisconsin public and private schools and for children who attend group day cares.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors, assembled this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020, do hereby urge the Wisconsin Legislature end the use of personal conviction waivers for school and day care center immunization requirements by adopting Assembly Bill 248 without delay.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Bayfield County Health Department will provide additional education and information in 2020 to all Bayfield County schools on the importance of childhood vaccinations and meeting the minimum immunization requirements.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Bayfield County Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Governor Tony Evers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin state legislators, WPHA, WALHDAB, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

By Action of the:  
**Bayfield County Board of Supervisors**



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Dennis M. Pocernich, *Chairman*

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
) ss.  
COUNTY OF BAYFIELD )

I, Scott S. Fibert, *Bayfield County Clerk*, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Volume 26, adopted by the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020.



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Scott S. Fibert, *Bayfield County Clerk*

**FISCAL NOTE:** This resolution does not require an appropriation from the County general fund.