

Resolution 38-19
Support Ending Wisconsin's Immunization Personal Conviction Waiver

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 can be very contagious, and can result in serious health complications, including pneumonia and encephalitis, and lead to death; 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, makes Wisconsin 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, 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 increased from 1.2% during the 1997-98 school year to an alarming 4.6% during 2018-19, 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 2 decades; 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 daycare immunizations; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) both 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 Price County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that the Wisconsin Legislature end the use of personal conviction waivers for school and day care center immunization requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Wisconsin, state legislators representing Price County, WPHA, WALHDAB, Wisconsin Counties Association and other organizations as appropriate.

Submitted by the Price County Health and Human Services Board:

~~OPPOSED~~ Bruce Jilka

Bruce Jilka, Chair

James Adolph

James Adolph

Peter Dahlie MD

Peter Dahlie

Sally Huml

Sally Huml

Suzanne Ocker

Suzanne Ocker

Gerald Swenson

Gerald Swenson

William Teeters

William Teeters

John Vlach

John Vlach

Dennis Wartgow

Dennis Wartgow

Reviewed by County Administrator:

Nicholas Trimmer

Nicholas Trimmer

Adopted by the Price County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of October 2019.

Robert D. Kopisch

Robert D. Kopisch, County Board Chair

Jean Gottwald

Jean Gottwald, County Clerk

For 6 Against 5

Abstain 1