

1
2
3 Title: Opposition to Vaccination Exemption Efforts
4
5 Introduced by: Shubhangi Arora and Jeanne Kochkodan for the Medical Student Section
6
7 Original Authors: Shubhangi Arora and Jeanne Kochkodan
8
9 Referred to: Reference Committee D
10
11 House Action: **APPROVE**
12

13
14 Whereas, vaccines have been heralded as one of the ten greatest public health achievements in
15 the 20th century¹, and

16
17 Whereas, for children born between 1994-2013, vaccines will prevent over 300 million
18 preventable diseases and over 700,000 early deaths in the United States¹, and

19
20 Whereas, all fifty states have some mandatory requirements for children to receive
21 vaccinations, though the specific requirements and reasons for exemption vary by state², and

22
23 Whereas, states that offer nonmedical vaccination waivers and allow for waivers to be easily
24 accessed have higher exemption rates², and

25
26 Whereas, in 2014 the state of Michigan had the sixth highest waiver rate in the country³, and

27
28 Whereas, families that use nonmedical exemptions from vaccines are 22 times more likely to
29 acquire measles and six times more likely to acquire pertussis, and

30
31 Whereas, in schools that have more children using nonmedical exemptions, there is an increase
32 in vaccine preventable disease breakouts among both vaccinated and unvaccinated children⁴, and

33
34 Whereas, Sections 9208 and 9211 of the Michigan Public Health Code require that a parent or
35 guardian applying to have a child registered for the first time in a Michigan school and/or in 7th grade,
36 or a licensed childcare center, shall present to officials no later than the first day of program enrollment
37 a certificate of immunization verifying that the child has been vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus,
38 pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, hepatitis B, and varicella. Pneumococcal conjugate and
39 Haemophilus influenza type B vaccines are also required for preschool-aged children. Additionally,
40 meningococcal vaccine and Tdap are required for children who are 11 years of age or older upon entry
41 into 7th grade or higher and newly enrolled in the district⁵, and

42
43 Whereas, parents or guardians can request immunization waivers in the state of Michigan for
44 medical, religious, and philosophical reasons⁵, and

45
46 Whereas, in December 2014, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
47 established a new rule that requires a parent or guardian who wishes to claim a nonmedical waiver from
48 vaccination for their child to receive education “regarding the benefits of vaccination and the risks of
49 disease from a county health department before obtaining the certified nonmedical waiver form
50 through the local health department”^{6,7}, and

51
52 Whereas, the process for parents or guardians requesting vaccine waivers for their children for
53 medical reasons remains unchanged by this December 2014 rule, and

54 Whereas, the number of immunization waivers requested by parents dropped about 40 percent,
55 or about 8000 children, statewide in Michigan after the changes mandating health education prior to
56 religious and philosophical exemption⁸, and
57

58 Whereas, Michigan House Bills 5126 and 5127 would prohibit the Michigan Department of
59 Health and Human Services from enforcing waiver requirements not mandated in state law, including
60 the newly required education prior to exemption^{9,10}, and
61

62 Whereas, Michigan House Bills 5126 and 5127 would also rescind the current policy that allows
63 local health officials to remove non-immunized children from school when there is a threat of vaccine-
64 preventable communicable disease, unless that threat has been classified as an epidemic^{9,10}, and
65

66 Whereas, our American Medical Association currently supports necessary vaccines and only
67 acknowledges exemptions on behalf of medical reasons¹¹; therefore be it
68

69 RESOLVED: That MSMS opposes legislation or regulations that prevent local public health
70 officials from excluding unvaccinated children from schools in the event of a disease outbreak; and be it
71 further
72

73 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports the requirement in Michigan that parents or guardians who
74 request a nonmedical immunization waiver for their child must first complete mandatory health
75 education from a county health department regarding the benefits of vaccination and the risks of
76 disease before obtaining such waiver.
77

78
79 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

¹ Hill HA, Elam-Evans LD, Yankey D, Singleton JA, Kolasa M. National, State And Selected Local Area Vaccination Among Children Aged 19-35 Months - United States, 2014. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. 2015; 64(33):889-896.

² Omer SB, Pan WY, Halsey NA, et al. Nonmedical Exemptions to School Immunization Requirements: Secular Trends and Association of State Policies With Pertussis Incidence. *JAMA*. 2006;296(14):1757-1763. doi:10.1001/jama.296.14.1757.

³ Preliminary Data Shows a Statewide Decrease in School-Age Vaccine Waiver Rates. Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Website. http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73970_71692-374966--,00.html. Published January 28, 2016. Accessed February 15, 2016.

⁴ Feikin DR, Lezotte DC, Hamman RF, Salmon DA, Chen RT, Hoffman RE. Individual and Community Risks of Measles and Pertussis Associated With Personal Exemptions to Immunization. *JAMA*. 2000;284(24):3145-3150. doi:10.1001/jama.284.24.3145.

⁵ Immunization Waiver Information. Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Website. http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_4911_4914_68361-344843--,00.html Published 2016.

⁶ Sample Immunization Waiver Form. Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Website. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/Sample_Waiver_485823_7.pdf Published January 1, 2015. Accessed February 25, 2016.

⁷ Medical Contraindication Form. Michigan Department of Health & Human Services Website. http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Medical_Contraindication_510054_7.pdf Published January 1, 2016. Accessed February 25, 2016.

⁸ Higgins, L. More Michigan Parents Willing to Vaccinate Kids. *Detroit Free Press*. January 28, 2016. <http://www.freep.com/story/news/education/2016/01/28/immunization-waivers-plummet-40-michigan/79427752/>. Accessed February 18, 2016.

⁹ Michigan HB 5126. <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016/billintroduced/House/htm/2015-HIB-5126.htm> Published Dec. 8, 2015. Accessed February 25, 2016.

¹⁰ Michigan HB 5127 <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016/billintroduced/House/htm/2015-HIB-5127.htm>. Published Dec 8, 2015. Accessed February 25, 2016.

¹¹ H-44.829 Ending Non-Medical Exemptions for Immunizations. *AMA Policy*.