As a member of the Louisiana Chapter of the American College of Physicians, I support the policy of the American College of Physicians, the largest specialty society in the United States and the world, in opposition to eliminating any non-medical exemptions from State immunization laws. We therefore respectively ask your support in opposing HB’s 13 and 49.

Allowing exemptions based on non-medical reasons poses a risk both to the unvaccinated person and to public health, as intentionally unvaccinated individuals can pose a danger to the public, especially to individuals who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.

Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases have been linked to communities of unvaccinated and undervaccinated individuals.\(^i\)\(^ii\) Studies indicate that the easier it is to receive an exemption, the higher the rate of exemptions in a particular state.\(^iii\)\(^iv\) ‘As the number of exemptions increases, the risk of vaccine-preventable disease has been found to increase.\(^v\) Exemptions from evidence-based immunization requirements should be limited to medical indications in order to protect the public’s health.


\(^iii\) Wang E, Clymer J, Davis-Hayes C, Buttenheim A. Nonmedical exemptions from school immunization requirements: A systematic review. AJPH. Nov 2014;104:e62–e84.
