



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 respectfully 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.^{vi} Exemptions from evidence-based immunization requirements should be limited to medical indications in order to protect the public's health.

ⁱ Omer SB, Salmon DA, Orenstein WA, deHart MP, Halsey N. Vaccine refusal, mandatory immunization, and the risks of vaccine preventable diseases. *N Engl J Med.* 2009;360(19):1981–1988

ⁱⁱ Glanz, Jason M.; Narwaney, Komal J.; Newcomer, Sophia R.; Daley, Matthew F.; Hambidge, Simon J.; Rowhani-Rahbar, Ali et al. (2013): Association between undervaccination with diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine and risk of pertussis infection in children 3 to 36 months of age. In *JAMA pediatrics* 167 (11), pp. 1060–1064. DOI: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.2353.

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.

^{iv} Stadlin S, Bednarczyk RA, Omer SB. Medical exemptions to school immunization requirements in the United States — association of state policies with medical exemption rates (2014-2011). *J Infect Dis.* 2012;206:989-92.

^v Omer SB, Pan WK, 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.