Dear Colleagues –

I am writing as your new ACP Governor to ask for your help on an urgent issue for patients and the public. The Vermont Legislature is currently considering removing the philosophical exemption for vaccinations and your support is needed.

As you know, philosophical exemptions are associated with clusters of unvaccinated children and outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. Medically-necessary and religious exemptions already exist in our state; our current Vermont law not only contributes to rising rates of under-vaccinated children, but also puts others at risk.

I encourage you to read the compelling blog by one of our own Internists, Mia Hockett, MD. (See https://medcenterblog.uvmhealth.org/children-health/it-takes-a-state-why-i-support-the-removal-of-the-philosophical-exemption-to-vaccination/)

A February 4, 2015 American College of Physicians Statement on Immunization fully supports the evidence-based recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The ACP further notes that “Physicians have a duty to provide the best care for their patients, as well as to protect the public health.”

**There are two easy ways to communicate your support for removing the philosophical vaccine exemption in Vermont:**

1. **Email your Representative to support eliminating the philosophical vaccine exemption in Vermont.** Find your representative with the following link: http://legislature.vermont.gov/people/search/2016

2. **Contact your Representative and leave a message at the State House** (Monday to Friday) at 1-800-322-5616 or 802-828-2228 (the Sergeant-At-Arms' Office).

This week and next are absolutely critical, as the Vermont House will soon be debating this issue. (See a recent VPR article: http://digital.vpr.net/post/removal-philosophical-exemption-hangs-balance) Physicians are credible advocates for the health of our patients and the public. Your support for this measure will help.

Thank you very much for your support!

Jan

---

Jan K. Carney, MD, MPH, FACP

Governor, Vermont Chapter ACP