Dear SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE NAME,

I am very concerned about the recent notices being sent from schools about the state immunization requirements for student attendance. Schools are omitting important information about the right to exemptions as outlined by PA law, and this leads to parents being misinformed and even coerced by statements that their child will not be allowed to attend school in the coming school year unless they receive all required vaccinations. This is A LIE.

Pennsylvania Code, Title 28, Subchapter C, Immunization, §23.85, Responsibilities of Schools and School Administrators, Subsection 23.85(a)(1) requires school administrators to appoint a knowledgeable person to inform a parent, guardian or emancipated child of Subchapter C requirements. Subchapter C includes §23.84, Exemption from Immunization, which provides students the options of attending school under a medical or religious/ethical exemption from immunization requirements. Moreover, §23.85(d) mandates that students are to be admitted to school or allowed to continue attending upon submitting information sufficient for a §23.84 immunization exemption. Thus, having a §23.84 exemption is a valid immunization status for school attendance under Pennsylvania law.

A vaccination is a medical procedure with very real risks of injury and death from adverse side effects. This is a fact sadly proven by the more than $3.6 billion dollars paid to date in compensation to vaccine injury victims and their families under the federal Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. When schools misrepresent Pennsylvania immunization requirements and exemptions, it raises issues of informed consent to a medical procedure that really can be dangerous to student health.

However, without enforcement provisions, school administrators can continue to ignore their statutory duty and misrepresent Pennsylvania law without accountability. We want to propose a solution.

We need legislation that will explicitly require schools to inform parents and guardians about the entirety of Pennsylvania law on immunizations and exemptions in all related communications and impose penalties on school administrators who refuse to do so. A standard informational guide outlining all the law’s provisions, including immunization exemptions could be used by all Pennsylvania schools to efficiently and effectively solve this problem.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME