

Pennsylvania Coalition for Informed Consent  
Press Release  
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## **Citizens Implore Legislators to End Denial of Pediatric Health Care by Supporting HB286:**

Our organization has heard from **hundreds of parents across Pennsylvania whose children have been denied pediatric care** because of their vaccination status. A staggering number of these parents have children who were injured as the result of a vaccine and are now unable to access the care required to treat these injuries. **Parents choose to delay or decline** vaccines for many different reasons and **Pennsylvania Code guarantees their right to do so.**

The insurance industry has created a high-pressure “pay-for-performance” system that awards **bonuses to medical practices** with high percentages of “fully-vaccinated” children. For example, only the two-year old children who receive all 24 doses of 10 vaccines are included in the bonus calculation. Children whose parents opt them out of only one dose of one vaccine lower the practice’s performance score, jeopardizing the practice’s income.

Doctors know how to protect their patient population while still accommodating patients who may be contagious. Providing separate office hours or waiting areas is routine procedure in medical practices for many highly contagious diseases such as Coxsackie virus and influenza. This bill would not prevent doctors from continuing to employ these patient safety practices. This bill also does not stop doctors from discussing vaccines with parents. On the contrary, restoring the doctor-patient relationship will enable parents to engage in the shared mission of making the best health care choices for their children.

Medical care is now routinely refused for infants and children whose parents choose not to vaccinate their 12-hour-old newborn for **Hepatitis B** or who want to delay or decline Merck’s **MMR Measles/Mumps/Rubella** vaccine. Since Hepatitis B is transmitted primarily via unprotected sex and/or tainted drug needles, the vast majority of infants are at zero risk, yet parents are bullied and coerced into accepting it anyway. Merck is facing **federal fraud charges** brought by their own virologists, who admit they were forced to **falsify efficacy data for the MMR vaccine**, yet children who don’t get it are dropped from pediatric practices.

**True informed consent cannot exist where such obvious coercion and conflicts of interest are allowed.**

It is unacceptable that our medical system permits and even encourages **intimidation and denial of service by pediatric practices**, especially when the Pennsylvania legislature has upheld the parental right to informed consent. Additionally, the U.S. government’s Vaccine Injury Compensation Program has paid **over \$4 billion** for vaccine-associated injuries and deaths, as **federal legislation protects vaccine manufacturers, doctors, and medical practices from liability** for vaccine adverse reaction, *even if they use duress to convince parents to allow an unwanted vaccine to be given.*