

Members of the committee;

My name is Jim Helmer. I live in Missoula and practice as a Chiropractor. Though my professional practice has nothing to do with the medical issue of vaccination, I do have children and now grandchildren and have **personally** become involved with Montana Families for Healthcare Freedom.

My goal in speaking here is to help the committee to see the families that are requesting this bill the way that I see them after getting to know them. The mothers and fathers who are asking the legislature to grant them the right to choose concerning the vaccines that are required for their children are sometimes thought of as selfish or fanatical, but I can assure you that the ones I have met are educated about the issues, thoughtful, intelligent and informed.

Concerns that these families have about vaccination are varied, some are wanting to delay vaccination to allow their child's immune system time to process and grow. Some of these families have children who have experienced a reaction from vaccination and are seeking to delay or eliminate a single vaccine, or multiple vaccines, while others oppose giving their infant as many as 5 or 6 vaccines in two shots on the same visit to their doctor. **Most are opposed to the way the vaccines are produced and the toxic ingredients they contain, but all the parents that I have talked to are vitally concerned with the physical health of their child and their community.**

These families have done the research and have seen that in states like California, where this type of exemption is allowed, about 2 % of the students in public school use this exemption. This allows plenty of room for health departments to meet the approximately 93% vaccination compliance required for herd immunity to be effective. (Herd Immunity being the concept that generally means when a large enough percentage of a population is vaccinated, all of the population achieves a level of protection against an outbreak of disease.) They are in fact very sensitive to public health issues, after all these are their communities where their children play, go to school and live.

Most of the families who are requesting the freedom to put their child in a daycare without vaccine compliance are working families. For them to have one wage earner be a stay at home parent for 5 to 10 years or more, is just not a financially feasible. Again, my goal in speaking here is to help the committee to see the families that are requesting this bill the way that I see them. They are involved members of their community working within the system. They are active, informed, and concerned and, again, the welfare of their families and their community and that is what brings them here. They have legitimate concerns about this issue, and are asking you to help them. This bill should move forward. Thank you for your time.