

Are We Truly Free?

by Lisa Middlecamp-Lowder, Ph.D. & Maija C. Hahn, M.S.

Who should decide what drugs you or your children will take? The government? Your employer? Your doctor? Your children? Or are you the ultimate authority on what drugs you and your children will receive? Do you believe you should always maintain the right to refuse a medical treatment? For what reasons? Religious? Philosophical? Your knowledge of your or your child's medical history and understanding one's higher risks?

The Government? Across the country, it appears the government is aiming to control your healthcare choices. Mandatory vaccination laws are passing left and right, taking individual medical freedoms from free Americans.

The First Amendment tells us Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. So how is it that in California and New York, if you have strongly held religious beliefs against vaccines the law prevents your child from going to school?

On 9/9/19, the State of California passed a law removing the decision making between the patient and doctor when comes to a medical reason for not having a vaccine (1). The State of California now decides whether or not a child can safely have a vaccine. Not the parents. Not their doctor. It is the largest power grab this country has even seen. Never have we seen our government take medical control away from doctors and free citizens. Until now.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Chairman of the Children's Health Defense, was there and had this to say: "Where are the legal and rational boundaries now that the government can force a medical procedure on children? ...if we give our government and big pharmaceutical companies, whom have zero liability, the authority to inject untested drugs into our children, where does the power of government end? What else can they order us to do? Can they do the same thing they do in China which is to tell people they have to abort their babies for the good of society? Can they euthanize people for the good of society? Where is the legal boundary? Where is the rational boundary if we can give government this right, which we have signed treaty after treaty after treaty saying you cannot force an American citizen or any citizen of the civilized world to take a medication or to submit themselves to a medical procedure without informed consent?" (1)

Those who are vaccine risk-aware are quite concerned and rightly so. More and more states are showing a willingness to violate our human, religious and parental rights including the right to "security of person" guaranteed by Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As the National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) tells us, we are in the midst of "the most aggressive and unwarranted attack on vaccine exemptions in U.S. history.(2) It's important to know that the movement to protect our freedoms regarding vaccine choice started way back in the 1850s (3), when severe and sometimes fatal side effects were being documented. That has not changed.

Since 1982, NVIC has been committed to preventing vaccine injuries and deaths through sharing information about diseases, vaccines and informed consent. NVIC provides well-referenced, accurate information to the public about vaccine science, policy and law but does not make vaccine use recommendations.

We are fortunate in our state to also have Michigan for Vaccine Choice, which does the same on a more local level. MVC (Michiganvaccinechoice.org) is working hard to protect medical freedom for Michigan families.

NVIC reports that during the 2019 legislative session, 22 bills across 17 states were filed to attempt to eliminate vaccine exemptions. Three bills passed, 12 died, and seven bills are still pending in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin at the time of writing.(2)

Other bills were also introduced in 2019 to improve informed consent, that is, to make sure parents are informed about the very real dangers of vaccination. These measures were taken by

pro-active state legislators, who were given fact-based information about vaccines, exemptions, and diseases, by concerned citizens who made face to face with their elected representatives.

The most significant concerning trend coming out of the 2019 legislative cycle is that 40 bills were filed to either remove or restrict vaccine exemptions in the following 22 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.(2)

Maine LD 798 eliminated both the religious and philosophical exemptions and goes into effect September 1, 2021. New York A 2371 eliminated the religious exemption in one day with no public hearings and the law went into effect immediately leaving only a restrictive medical exemption. (2)

In California, AB 283 seeks to remove the personal belief exemption for young children who are on the CalWORKs assistance program. (2) This is discrimination based on income.

Across the country vaccine choice advocates came out by the thousands this year and successfully held back multiple attacks to remove or restrict vaccine exemptions in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, and Washington. (2)

Your Employer? Despite the evidence that the live flu vaccine can shed to those in close proximity of the person who received the shot, many businesses, particularly medical ones, require employees to get the flu shot. Some employers require a form to decline, while others require the employee to defend their wishes in front of an intimidating executive board. Often the employee must wear a mask the rest of the season even though they are not ill (or shedding). Still other employers mandate either you get the shot or you're terminated.

Your Doctor? Here in Michigan more and more families are being "discharged from care" if they want to choose an alternative vaccine schedule, such as separating and spreading them out. Some families are being kicked out of pediatric offices even when their child(ren) had experienced a severe adverse reaction to a vaccine(s) and thus refused to take the risk of further injury. Pediatricians claim "it's not safe to our other patients to have less-vaccinated patients". However that excuse falls flat when these same doctor's offices accept children that actually carry disease. The truth is pediatricians are given high incentives to push vaccines by the insurance companies they contract with, some bonuses being tens of thousands of dollars. So the "discharged" families are left with little to no healthcare options just because they are have chosen not to follow the CDC's recommended schedule, even when they have very valid reasons.

Your Children? One particularly troubling area of proposed legislative changes are bills that allow minor children to be vaccinated without the knowledge or informed consent of their parents. A child is less likely than an adult parent to understand their medical history, including a history of vaccine reactions, allergies and autoimmune or neurological disorders. Minor children do not have the same kind of critical thinking skills or emotional maturity required to make a vaccine benefit-risk decision compared to adults. In addition, if a child receives a vaccination without a parent's knowledge or informed consent, and then experiences a vaccine reaction, a parent might not recognize the potential cause of their child's sudden decline in health. This lack of knowledge by parents could be life threatening for the child. Fortunately, none of these bills passed. There are 13 bills introduced in 7 states that would give minors the right to consent to some or all vaccines without their parents' knowledge or approval.(2)

Citizens across the U.S. are losing their medical freedom to choose what will be injected into our bodies and the bodies of our children. Employees are losing their jobs if they refuse to get the flu shot. Children are being denied schooling, childcare, and healthcare if they do not comply with the current CDC schedule - being injected with 72 doses of vaccines that have never

been tested against an inert placebo. Vaccines that contain neurotoxins like mercury and aluminum, should be thoughtfully considered. Vaccines that contain aborted fetal tissues or the tissues of animals may conflict with religious beliefs. Yet, the government is using coercion and blackmail to force free citizens to inject. It is time all Americans take a stand - If you believe that YOU and only you, should be the one to decide what drugs you and your children will take.

What can you do?

Join MVC: Michigan For Vaccine Choice (MVC) is an advocacy organization that helps to maintain Michigan's strong medical freedom laws by lobbying efforts in Lansing. MVC is not an anti-vaccine organization. They believe in complete informed consent, they believe in science, and they fight for one's rights to choose what is best for themselves and their family. You may support their efforts by becoming a member or making a donation at michiganvaccinechoice.org.

Utilize Advocacy Tools: Check the NVIC Advocacy Portal (nvicadvocacy.org).

Become Active in Government: The most important thing you can do if you care about protecting your medical freedom is to establish relationships with your legislators. Find where your representatives stand at voterveice.net/MVC/scorecard. We must be ready to counter bills that will restrict or eliminate exemptions and get good bills filed to protect our right to make informed decisions about the health of ourselves and our children.

***WHERE THERE IS RISK... THERE SHOULD ALWAYS BE CHOICE.**

1. <https://childrenshealthdefense.org/news/ca-sb-276-sb-714-signed-into-law-by-gov-newsom/>
2. <https://www.nvic.org/NVIC-Vaccine-News/September-2019/vaccine-exemptions-under-attack-in-2019.aspx>
3. <https://academic.oup.com/shm/article-abstract/13/1/45/1628528>

Muskegon DAR Membership Drive

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. Any woman 18 years or older, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution is eligible for membership. With more than 185,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters worldwide, DAR is one of the world's largest and most active service organizations. To learn more about the work of today's DAR, visit www.dar.org. The Muskegon Chapter of the DAR meets once a month. If you are interested in attending as a guest or applying for DAR membership, please call: Barb at (231)780-4502.



Santa's new Christmas Chalet is being built at the Lakes Mall. "I liked the little chalets down town at the Western Market and I've been talking to the City of Muskegon about how I thought they were so adorable," said Julie Sustaita, the Mall's general manager. In trade for the Mall's Christmas lighthouse set, fashioned after Santa's Workshop, the City is building what will be a beautiful holiday house at the Lakes Mall.

caption by Kate Holthrop