



Testimony of American Families for Vaccines

In Opposition to HB 1719-FN

Submitted by Northe Saunders, President

Dear Chairman MacDonald and Members of the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB1719-FN and on the national implications of weakening long-standing, evidence-based routine childhood immunization recommendations and requirements.

American Families for Vaccines (AFV) advocates for policies that protect the health and well-being of children and communities based on reliable science and broad public support.

Routine childhood immunizations have dramatically reduced or eliminated diseases that once caused widespread illness and death in American children, including hepatitis B. Programs built around these recommendations rely on consistency and trust: parents, clinicians, school administrators, and public health officials depend on clear guidance to prevent outbreaks.

Public opinion polling shows that a strong majority of Americans across political lines continue to support vaccine requirements for contagious diseases, including those necessary for school attendance. The data reinforce that protecting children from vaccine-preventable disease remains a widely shared value among families throughout the country.

Maintaining strong immunization frameworks also has tangible public health consequences. Uniform vaccination coverage not only prevents costly outbreaks, but also protects medically vulnerable individuals who cannot be vaccinated and prevents the resurgence of diseases that have been controlled for generations.

Public health practice should align with the best available evidence and the clear preferences of the community. Current national discourse reflects tension between policy shifts and the public's continued support for strong vaccine protections. American Families for Vaccines urges lawmakers to resist efforts that might weaken evidence-based immunization standards, recognizing that doing so would run counter

to the broad desire of the American public for vaccine policies that protect children and communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Northe Saunders, President

American Families for Vaccines and American Families for Vaccines Action Fund