



March 22, 2023

Dear Honorable Members of the House Human Services Committee,

My name is Dawn Richardson. I am testifying as the director of advocacy for the nonprofit National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) founded in 1982.

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2260.**

SB 2260, as filed, is a Parental rights bill that does not specifically mention vaccines. However, it would allow minors to be dispensed a medication (medication would include vaccines) in an emergency if the individual or entity obtaining parental consent cannot locate or contact the parent of the child after a reasonably diligent effort.

NVIC cannot support this section of the bill and does not take a position on the rest of the bill's provisions which are unrelated to vaccines. NVIC does not support minors being vaccinated without the prior written informed consent of the parent or guardian.

SB 2260 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee with amendments.

The amendments added additional exceptions to the requirement that parental consent be obtained before certain medical procedures. These are situations that would not require parental consent that are already allowed by state law. Parental consent for vaccination is not specifically addressed in current law. Minors can consent to treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, but this current law, 14.10.17, does not include vaccination or preventive measures.

NVIC cannot support SB 2260 as amended because the bill still allows dispensing of a medication (that would include vaccines) to a child without parental consent during an emergency if the entity or individual can't locate the parent after a reasonably diligent effort. See page 6 and 7 of the engrossed bill:

2. Except as otherwise provided by law or court order, an individual, corporation, association, organization, state-supported institution, or individual employed by any of these entities shall obtain the consent of a parent of a child before taking any of the following actions:

c. Prescribing or dispensing a medication or prescription drug to a child; (medication would include vaccination)

4. This section does not apply when it has been determined by a physician that:

a. An emergency exists; and

b. Either of the following conditions is true:

- (1) It is necessary to perform an activity listed in subsection 1 to prevent death or imminent, irreparable physical injury to the child,  
or  
(2) The individual or entity obtaining parental consent cannot locate or contact the parent of the child after a reasonably diligent effort.

**The problem is some vaccine administrators think not having all vaccines is an emergency or could put the child's health at risk of death even though the child is healthy. These exceptions combined could be used as a loophole to justify minor consent to vaccination.**

**This part of SB 2290 should be amended to clarify that vaccination is not emergency care and that it does not apply in this section.**

**Vaccination is a medical procedure that cause injury and death and should never be done to a child without fully informed parental consent. No emergency exists where the vaccine administrator can't wait until they can reach a parent to get fully informed consent.**

Sincerely,  
Dawn Richardson,  
Director of Advocacy  
National Vaccine Information Center  
<http://NVICAdvocacy.org>