

Dear Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg and members of the Public Health Committee,

The CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics supports HB 5044 and appreciates your efforts to improve immunization rates in Connecticut and protect our most vulnerable citizens by making vaccine requirements stricter and removing non-medical exemptions.

The American Academy of Pediatrics published a policy statement in 2016 supporting removal of non-medical exemptions, stating “The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) supports regulations and laws requiring certification of immunization to attend child care and school as a sound means of providing a safe environment for attendees and employees of these settings. The AAP also supports medically indicated exemptions to specific immunizations as determined for each individual child. The AAP views nonmedical exemptions to school-required immunizations as inappropriate for individual, public health, and ethical reasons and advocates for their elimination.”

We are supportive of the language in HB 5044 and have a couple of recommended changes to remain in line with current medical practice and immunization requirements.

1. Sec 1 (a) Second immunization for measles is now recommended and required prior to entry into Kindergarten (not seventh grade)
2. Sec 1 (a)(5) referencing pertussis after age 6 should be removed. Pertussis is now given through adulthood in the Tdap vaccine (and required for 7th grade).
3. Sec 6 (3) add language after “his or her discretion” such as “that is supported by currently accepted evidenced based medicine” or similar
4. Specify that the form for medical exemptions be submitted to the child’s school, their local health department and the Department of Public Health

Thank you for your consideration,

Robert Dudley, MD



President, CT-AAP

Sandra Carbonari, MD



Medical Director, CT-AAP

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Immunization Representative, CT-AAP