

Hello Committee Members!

My name is Michaela and I live in Chanhassen with my husband, dog, and 6 month old son.

On Tuesday you'll hear about HF367 which will allow daycares to get rid of conscientious exemptions. After hours and hours of research, I have chosen an alternative vaccine schedule for my baby, so this bill would directly affect us. Please consider voting NO.

First and foremost, let's call a spade a spade: it is hypocritical for the DFL party who championed the most expansive abortion bill in the country in the name of "bodily autonomy" to now start eroding the freedom of choice when it comes to medical decisions like vaccinations.

You might say, "hold on, that's not what we're voting on..." But make no mistake - even though this bill *appears* to only be giving daycares the ability to deny exemptions that have been common place in MN for quite some time, it without a doubt sets a dangerous precedent. This very slippery slope's end goal is to have all children on the CDC schedule regardless of if they want to. If we give an inch on freedom, it opens the doors for some to take a mile.

The second thing is... this bill is **classist**! At a moment in history when the ability to find a good daycare is at its absolute hardest, this is the bill senators are focusing on?

Remember: rich moms will not be affected by this bill. They (and there are a lot of them) can afford an in home nanny or they can take off work. Low and middle class parents (like myself), who have the same right (as of now) to conscientious exemptions can not afford those options with the cost of living as high as it is in 2024.

Thirdly, this issue is purple. I know people on both sides of the isle who are making medical decisions based on private discussions they are having with their doctors. As with any medicine, there are potential side effects. Unlike other medicines though, vaccines have so many protections around them it is nearly impossible for parents to sue if something does go sideways. While rare, it certainly does happen. Will MN be the first state that allows parents to sue big pharma if there is a side effect? No? Then please don't push this ball in motion.

Where there are risks there must be choice.

Lastly, just like how people who've gotten the COVID shot can still get and spread COVID, we are seeing outbreaks of pertussis spread like wildfire among fully vaccinated kids. How is this possible? Because the vaccine doesn't actually stop the spread, clearly, and yet unvaccinated kids are taking all the heat even if they aren't the ones who brought it into class! Diseases evolve - we don't need more laws, we need a more effective (in this case, DTAP) vaccine for those who want to get it.

I really do appreciate your time. Despite what you might assume about me, I really do care about the health of my child and my community. I'm a proud Minnesotan and I would really appreciate it if you stood up for all the parents in your district by preserving our right to conscientious exemptions, both now and with any future bills.

I really do appreciate your time, thank you!