



**PENNSYLVANIA COALITION
FOR INFORMED CONSENT**

Legislative Concerns: 2022 Pennsylvania Legislative Session

The Pennsylvania Coalition for Informed Consent works to preserve the vital personal freedom and human right to informed consent, privacy, and choice for medical procedures in Pennsylvania.

We urge Pennsylvania legislators to support these fundamental rights by taking action on the following bills.

We do our best to update this list to be as current as possible; however, legislation moves quickly at times. Please click on the bill number (blue hyperlink) to go directly to the bill's webpage to see the most updated information.

HOUSE BILLS TO SUPPORT

[HB2013](#)-- A Joint Resolution Proposing An Amendment To The Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Providing For Right to Medical Freedom— Introduced by Representative Diamond

If this very important amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution is passed, it would bypass the Governor and be voted on by the people as early as the spring 2023 election.

[HB261](#)-- School Vaccination Exemption Announcements-- Introduced by Representative Diamond

Formerly HB2037, this act would require schools to disclose vaccine exemption information whenever vaccination policies for school attendance are communicated. Every school year, notices of the school's vaccine requirements are announced to parents via school websites, emails, and letters. Even though Pennsylvania State Law guarantees both medical and religious exemptions from vaccination for school

admission, most PA schools do not and have never informed parents of their rights. Many even deliberately and repeatedly refused to tell parents about them. School nurses have even admitted that they purposely withheld this information.

HB286-- Informed Consent Protection Act-- Introduced by Representative Metcalfe

HB286 would prohibit medical discrimination in pediatric offices, ending the unethical trend of pediatric offices refusing medical care to families who do not follow the CDC vaccine schedule exactly. This trend is fueled by insurance incentives. HB286 was originally introduced in the 2019-20 legislative session and received a lot of support and attention. With medical discrimination taking center-stage in the 2021 political sphere, we expect this bill to gain even more support.

HB1380-- COVID-19 Vaccine Personal Information Privacy Act-- Introduced by Representative Pisciotano

This bill would require COVID-19 vaccine providers to delete the personal information of individuals who register to receive a COVID-19 vaccine with the provider, but do not receive a vaccine within 6 months. This would apply to information collected during the COVID-19 vaccination appointment process.

HB1439-- Vaccine Freedom Act— Introduced by Representative Metcalfe

The Vaccine Freedom Act works to protect residents from coerced vaccination and discrimination based on vaccine status. It would prohibit vaccine mandates in Pennsylvania, including during a declared emergency, and would prevent a government entity from using vaccine status as a condition to participate in or receive any government service, benefit or incentive. It would also prevent a business entity or ticketing agent from refusing admission or service due to vaccine status. In addition, it would make isolation or quarantine based solely on vaccine status illegal.

HB1741-- Coronavirus Infection Medication Act— Introduced by Representative Keefer

The Coronavirus Infection Medication Act would allow prescribers to prescribe and pharmacists to dispense any FDA approved medications for off-label use to treat COVID-19.

HB1478-- COVID-19 Vaccine Anti-discrimination Act-- Introduced by Representative Heffley

Will prohibit the use of COVID-19 vaccine information on identification cards and proof of receipt of COVID-19 vaccine; additionally, it will provide for civil cause of action.

HB1746-- Providing For Limitation On Masking Order— Introduced by Representative Jowziak

By amending Public School Code to state that students may not be forced to wear a mask or face covering in school, the governor and government agencies will not be able to mandate masks or face coverings for public schools.

SENATE BILLS TO SUPPORT

SB471-- Medical Freedom Act-- Introduced by Senator Mastriano

This Act would provide full protection against discrimination of individuals based on vaccine status. It would prohibit any state agency from requiring vaccines as a condition of employment, access to education, the ability to travel, or for entry to a public place. In order for individuals to receive a vaccine as part of a mass vaccination program, they would need to receive informed consent including vaccine ingredients, risks, and benefits, without coercion. It would protect employees by prohibiting adverse action against employees who decline vaccination. It would also prohibit businesses and medical providers from denying entrance, service, opportunity to purchase goods, and medical care to unvaccinated individuals. Individuals would not be able to be forced or coerced into signing a vaccination waiver that does not align with their beliefs.

SB633-- Right To Know Reform-- Introduced by Senator Mastriano

This bill would force the PA health department to share information requested through Right-to-Know Requests that currently are being blocked due to the Disease Prevention & Control Law of 1955. HIPAA laws would cover these privacy concerns. SB633 would amend section 15 of this old law to remove the existing standards and indicate that the Right-To-Know law applies in their place.

SB885-- An Act Amending Unemployment Compensation Law— Introduced by Senator Mastriano

In order to protect employees from being denied unemployment compensation after losing their job for rejecting the COVID-19 vaccine, Senator Mastriano has introduced a bill that will amend the Unemployment Compensation Law and protect their right to collect unemployment benefits. Specifically the law will prevent

employers from labeling an employee's choice to not get the COVID-19 vaccine as "willful misconduct". In addition, the amendments to the law will protect an employee's right to resign without fear of being denied unemployment benefits if the employer is requiring the COVID-19 vaccine.

SB937-- An Act Amending the Public School Code Prohibiting COVID-19 Vaccine— Introduced by Senator Brooks

This act will amend Public School Code to prohibit the COVID-19 vaccine from being a required immunization for public school attendance.

BILLS TO AMEND

HB262-- Right to Refuse Act-- Introduced by Representative Diamond

Employers would not be able to require vaccines or invasive medical tests as a condition of employment, and they would not be able to discriminate against those declining vaccines or tests. This bill was amended and now requires employees to provide exemptions in order to refuse. In addition, employers are allowed to require additional precautions as part of the accommodations for employees refusing an injection including wearing additional PPE, working from home, and even placing restrictions on an employee's physical proximity to other employees. Drug testing would still be allowed, except for marijuana. Testing mandated by state or federal law, or required for OSHA safety standards would be exempt. Individuals who are fired or discriminated against for declining vaccines/testing could sue, and would be entitled to 3x their wages/benefits and legal fees. We recommend amending the bill to allow employees to refuse testing or injection without having to provide an exemption.

HB1225-- COVID Freedom Act-- Introduced by Representative Keefer

This bill would prohibit a government entity from requiring vaccines unless the individual works in health care, a nursing home, or a school. PCIC cannot support any bill that requires an employee to take an unwanted vaccine. We are requesting that the statement excepting these workers be removed from the bill so that all employees would be able to maintain both bodily autonomy and equal opportunity to employment. The positive aspects of this bill are that it would prevent a business entity or ticket issuer from denying admission or service to an individual based on vaccine status. A government entity could not require vaccination as a condition for benefits, services, licenses, permits, admittance, transportation, privileges or incentives. A government entity would not be permitted to interfere with worship

services by restricting, suspending, regulating or limiting them. The PA Capitol Building, legislative meetings, House and Senate would remain open to the public without arbitrary restrictions. A government entity would not be able to prevent a business entity from providing its products or services to the public for more than 30 days during an emergency, and any business regulation could be terminated by a majority vote of either chamber of the general assembly. During an emergency, a government entity could not enact stay at home orders or curfew orders.

HB958-- Immunization Freedom Act-- Introduced by Representative Zimmerman

The proposed bill's attempt to solve the deplorable problem of pediatric medical discrimination is not achieved as written. The requirement that a child receive one vaccine per year must be removed from the bill text in order for this to effectively end medical discrimination against children whose families decline vaccination for religious or other reasons. If amended, the bill would prevent doctors from being able to kick patients out of their office for refusing vaccines, and insurance companies would not be able to bonus doctors for giving vaccines, or be able to kick clients off health insurance plans for refusing vaccines. It would also allow doctors to schedule meetings with parents/ patients to talk about vaccines, but they can't charge or bill for the meeting (so it probably won't happen), and doctors can choose to have two separate waiting rooms for the unvaccinated/ vaccinated.

SB846-- Parental Choice Regarding Mask Mandates in Schools— Introduced by Senator Mastriano

While this bill allows for parents to opt out of masks for their kids in school without having to provide a reason (exception), it does not prohibit schools or state officials from mandating masks for kids in school, and even implies that schools do have the authority to mandate masks for students. This bill is in the Senate Education Committee.

HB2077— Vaccine Exemption Options Act — Introduced by Representative Paul Schemel

While the Vaccine Exemption Options Act does prohibit government entities and private businesses from denying citizens services without proof of vaccination, it does still require unvaccinated individuals to show some sort of proof in order to participate in every day life. Instead of showing proof of vaccination, the unvaccinated would need to show proof of natural immunity in the last year either through serology antibody test results or a note from your doctor or a negative COVID-19 test results.

BILLS TO OPPOSE

HB182-- Equipping Parents to Make Informed Choices (School Shaming)-- Introduced by Representative Kozierowski

Formerly HB1767, this legislation would require all PA school districts to publish on their website the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated enrolled students. This bill would open the door for, and even encourage, bullying and discrimination towards children and families who decline vaccines. This bill is not likely to move, so while we do oppose it, no action is required at this time.

HB1820 – Protecting Children from Disease Outbreak (Forced government propaganda)— Introduced by Representative Frankel

Formerly HB1771, this bill is being reintroduced and it would require parents wanting to use a vaccine exemption to schedule an educational session with a health professional before being permitted to use an exemption. This bill violates constitutional protection of religious beliefs. It did not move at all the last time it was introduced, and we don't expect it will again. We are watching it, but no action is required at this time.

HB1818 – Empowering Teens to Protect Their Health (Minor Consent for Vaccines & Elimination of Parental Authority)— Introduced by Representative Dan Frankel

This bill would allow people age 14 or over to consent to immunizations recommended by the United States Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Parents or guardians would not be able to override a minor's consent for vaccination if the minor is age 14 or over. This bill is in the House Health Committee. It is important to note that Representative Frankel – who has 2 items in the Bills to Oppose section, is the Minority Chair of the House Health Committee. Should the majority party in the PA General Assembly shift in the future so that Democrat legislators outnumber Republicans, Rep Frankel and his colleagues will have the power to pass legislation like these into law with little effort (as we have seen in surrounding states).

SB856— Lowering The Age of Consent to Vaccination— Introduced by Senator Amanda Cappelletti

If passed, this law would lower the age to consent to vaccination to 14 years-old as long as the vaccine is recommended by the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The child's legal guardian or parent's consent would not be required in order for the child to receive the vaccine. It is currently in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

SB393-- Immunization Information (Mandatory propaganda)— Introduced by Senator Judy Schwank

Similar to HB 1820, this bill (formerly SB626) would require parents using a religious / philosophical exemption for school to use a standardized state exemption form and to get this form signed by a "person authorized to administer immunizations". The parent would be required to receive "scientifically accepted information" on the benefits and risks of vaccines from this person. This requirement would violate the PA constitution for several reasons, and there is no mention of who would pay for the mandatory coercive appointment. This bill is in the Senate Education Committee.

HB633-- COVID-19 Vaccine Registry Act—Introduced by Representative Ryan A. Bizzarro

This bill encourages a registry for citizens wanting to get a COVID-19 vaccine so they can be connected to a facility offering the vaccine. Since there is not a shortage of vaccines, the government should not be keeping data on citizens' vaccine status. This bill is in the House Health Committee.