

**National Vaccine Advisory Commission Meeting  
February 22, 2024  
Public Comment - Theresa Wrangham, Executive Director**

My name is Theresa Wrangham and I am the Executive Director for the National Vaccine Information Center. Our co-founders are parents of vaccine-injured children and worked with Congress to draft and pass the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 that created this committee.

NVIC supports access to vaccines, and also upholds the right to make voluntary vaccine decisions aligned with the informed consent ethic, and does not support coercive laws, policies and mandates making a choice not to vaccinate burdensome.

According to CDC's November MMWR on vaccine coverage for kindergartners for the 2022-23 school year reveals that over half of U.S. states provide provisional and grace status for students. In Colorado, the state I live in, when vaccine laws were enforced by schools for parents to provide vaccine status and exemption, high vaccination rates existed. This may be true for many of states with provisional language regarding school vaccination requirements. Indeed, the CDC during a 2018 meeting stated clearly what some presenters today in part stated –

*“Vaccination coverage among kindergartners remained high; however, schools can improve coverage by following up with students who are provisionally enrolled, in a grace period, or lacking complete documentation of required vaccinations.” Dr. Nancy Messonnier, CDC*

Yet the following legislative session, despite state data validating exactly what Dr. Messonnier alluded to, a new law was passed in Colorado to consolidate religious and personal belief exemptions into a non-medical exemption with required education to obtain the exemption. In a nutshell, parents were penalized and choice made burdensome because schools were not doing their job and following the law.

This law doesn't appear to threaten parents, as the chair noted should be avoided – it **does** threaten parents. Such action in Colorado or any state violates the informed consent ethic, which has guided not only research guidelines but the ethical practice of modern medicine since World War II. It is every individual's and parent's right to make voluntary, informed vaccine decisions without threat, coercion and sanction.

Additionally, the data presented on measles outbreaks didn't consistently provide vaccination status, nor were any adverse events resulting from measles vaccination - a vaccine I personally had a severe reaction to and which my mother thought would kill me. The vaccine doesn't always prevent measles, also comes with risk, and the medical literature and public health data document that the vaccine can fail to prevent the disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment today.