

The Honorable _____
State Capitol, Room _____
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 16 (Hernandez)

Dear Senator _____:

I respectfully request that you oppose AB 16 (Hernandez), which changes the governing authority over school immunization requirements from the accountable and elected California legislature to a single "State Public Health officer" who will administer the required immunizations for the state based largely on recommendations by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

AB 16 was originally a bill to require young girls to be immunized against the sexually-transmitted HPV virus before entering seventh grade. While this requirement no longer exists explicitly in the bill, the fact that the ACIP recommends the HPV vaccination at that age changes little but the wording involved.

It is clear to me that this is still very much an attempt to require the HPV and, in the future, possibly other controversial vaccines without legislative oversight and approval. There is only a limited requirement to notify the legislature's education and health committees, as well as the governor's office, before implementing a new vaccine. No approval is needed before the officer can add the vaccine to the list, so there is no real oversight.

The fact that vaccines like that for HPV, which can only be acquired through sexual contact, can be essentially mandated for children without approval from the public or their elected representatives is a disservice to parents and an overreach by the state.

Please oppose AB 16.

Sincerely,