

September 26, 2024

To: Livingston County Board of Commissioners

From: Dawn Smith, Chair, Health Advisory Committee

Re: Letter to Oppose Michigan Senate bills 875, 876 and 877

The Livingston County Health Advisory Committee requests the Livingston County Board of Commissioners to formally oppose Michigan Senate Bills 875, 876, and 877

There are many vaccines available for children. These vaccines are given at different ages throughout childhood and are referred to as “**recommended vaccines**”. Many vaccine targeted diseases, such as measles and chickenpox, are easily spread among children. When children congregate in close settings, like schools or childcare facilities, there are additional rules in place to prevent the spread of these diseases. These rules, commonly referred to as “**required vaccines**”, are part of state law regulating attendance at these facilities.

Current law requires parents who choose not to have their children receive the “required vaccines” before entering school or childcare, to attend an education session with the Health Department. The education session reviews the risks of disease along with the benefits and risks of vaccination. If the parent still chooses not to vaccinate for these “required vaccines” they sign a waiver. Schools are required by law (Revised School Code) to report the “required vaccine” status of and/or the waiver status of children entering childcare or preschool, children entering kindergarten, children entering 7th grade, and children changing school districts at any age. This reporting by the schools is required by law (School Aid Act) for the state funding provided to the school.

Table 1: Comparison of Current Vaccine Requirements vs. SB 875 Proposed Vaccine Requirements

<u>Current Vaccines Required for Child Care and Preschool</u>	<u>Current Vaccines Required for School Entry</u>	<u>Senate Bill 875 Proposed Required Vaccines</u>
DTaP/TDaP (Tetanus, Diptheria, Pertussis)	DTaP/TDaP (Tetanus, Diptheria, Pertussis)	DTaP/TDaP (Tetanus, Diptheria, Pertussis)
Polio	Polio	Polio
MMR (measles, Mumps, Rubella)	MMR (measles, Mumps, Rubella)	MMR (measles, Mumps, Rubella)
Hepatitis B	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis B
Varicella	Meningitis (ACWY)	Meningitis (ACWY)
Hib	Varicella	Varicella
Pneumonia		Hib
		Rotavirus
		Pneumonia
		COVID
		Influenza
		Hepatitis A
		HPV
		Meningitis B
		RSV (if pregnant)

Michigan Senate Bill 875 would add an additional reporting requirement for children entering 12th grade. As shown in Table 1, this bill would also change the “required vaccines” to all vaccines that are currently “recommended vaccines” by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). New vaccines can and are added to the ACIP “recommended vaccines” list at any time.

Senate Bill 876 would modify the School Aid Act to align with the new rules of Bill 875. The State School Aid Act serves to guide school funding, appropriations and how funds are distributed. School reporting of vaccine coverage is included in this act. Schools can lose funding if they are not in compliance with vaccine reporting.

Senate Bill 877 modifies the Revised School Code to align with the new rules of 875. State School code provides definitions for various aspects of education, including schools, school personnel, and student-related matters. School reporting of vaccine coverage is included in this code, so it needs to be amended to include the new rules proposed in 875.

Senate Bill 875 cannot pass unless 876 and 877 pass as well so all three are aligned with the same rules for reporting.

The Livingston County Health Department processes approximately 1,000 vaccine waivers per year. If these bills pass it is estimated that the number of waivers will increase to approximately 20,000 per year. The changes enacted by Michigan Senate Bills 875, 876 and 877 will cause unnecessary burden for children, parents, schools, and the Health Department. Vaccine choices should be made by parents in collaboration with their children’s physician. These bills represent government overreach and an invasion of privacy for the citizens of Michigan.

Bill Sponsors

Sponsors of Senate Bill 875 of 2024 are State Senator Kevin Hertel (D) representing Michigan’s 12th Senate District, State Senator Paul Wojno (D) representing Michigan’s 10th Senate District

Sponsors of Senate Bill 876 of 2024 are State Senator Paul Wojno (D) representing Michigan’s 10th Senate District, State Senator Kevin Hertel (D) representing Michigan’s 12th Senate District

Sponsors of Senate Bill 877 of 2024: State Senator Erika Geiss (D) representing Michigan’s 1st Senate District, State Senator Kevin Hertel (D) representing Michigan’s 12th Senate District, State Senator Paul Wojno (D) representing Michigan’s 10th Senate District

Source: <https://legislature.mi.gov/Committees/CBR?committeeID=1914>