



**Colorado House Health & Insurance Committee
Theresa Wrangham Testimony on SB 23-1029
February 7, 2023**

I'm Theresa Wrangham, the executive director for the National Vaccine Information Center, a Colorado resident and guardian to my 32-year-old disabled daughter. We support this bill.

NVIC opposes vaccine mandates and advocates for voluntary vaccine choice without coercion and penalty. Today the opposition will say Colorado has exemptions so mandates are ok. Frankly, that's not good enough, because in 2020 Colorado's vaccine exemption law became discriminatory and coercive. Third-party approval of conscientious and religious beliefs is required to obtain non-medical exemptions and families are often forced to sacrifice federal privacy rights to get these exemptions.

I also know from personal experience that minors are not equipped to make vaccination decisions. My daughter's mental age regarding medical decision-making is that of a middle to high school student. My husband and I maintain guardianship primarily due to her inability to provide informed consent to medical procedures. She doesn't understand the risks and benefits of medical treatments and interventions, she doesn't know what questions to ask to get more information, how to recognize adverse reactions, or how to identify information resources. This bill protects minors.

The CDC has stated 75% of children have already had and recovered from COVID, which is mild for most children. The CDC has also stated COVID-19 vaccines don't prevent disease and that the vaccinated can infect others. There is simply no reason to mandate this vaccine.

HB 1029 is a common sense bill protecting children from risks they cannot understand and families from discrimination. I ask for your yes vote.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

Seroprevalence of Infection-Induced SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies — United States, September 2021–February 2022

Weekly / April 29, 2022 / 71(17):606-608

On April 26, 2022, this report was posted online as an MMWR Early Release.

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As of February 2022, approximately 75% of children and adolescents had serologic evidence of previous infection with SARS-CoV-2, with approximately one third becoming newly seropositive since December 2021.

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COVID-19 after Vaccination: Possible Breakthrough Infection

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When someone who is vaccinated with either a primary series or a primary series plus a booster dose gets infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, it is referred to as a "vaccine breakthrough infection."

People who get vaccine breakthrough infections can spread COVID-19 to other people. When a community reports more COVID-19 infections, that means more virus is circulating. When more virus is circulating, more breakthrough infections will occur even when vaccination rates are high.

C.R.S. 25-4-903. Exemptions from Immunization

(b) (I) By submitting to the student's school either a completed certificate of completion of the online education module or a completed certificate of nonmedical exemption signed by one parent or legal guardian, an emancipated student, or a student eighteen years of age or older that the parent, legal guardian, or student is an adherent to a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to immunizations or has a personal belief that is opposed to immunizations.

(B) A complete certificate of nonmedical exemption must include the signature of a person who is authorized pursuant to title 12 to administer immunizations within his or her scope of practice to the student for whom the certificate of nonmedical exemption is sought. Nothing in this subsection (2)(b)(I)(B) requires a person authorized pursuant to title 12 to administer immunizations within his or her scope of practice to sign a certificate of nonmedical exemption. Notwithstanding any law or rule to the contrary, a body that regulates the professional conduct of a person who is authorized pursuant to title 12 to administer immunizations within his or her scope of practice to the student for whom the certificate is sought shall not order a disciplinary action against the person because the person authorized to sign the certificate signed such certificate pursuant to this subsection (2)(b)(I)(B). It is unlawful for the employer or any professional organization to retaliate against a person because the person authorized to sign a certificate signed such certificate pursuant to this subsection (2)(b)(I)(B).

