

Renee Meyer

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Hello, my name is Renee Meyer and I am a voter in House District 105.

Please support HB 2094 for a Conscientious Exemption to state-mandated vaccinations.

My sister Laura reacted to her first DPT shot when she was 6 weeks old. The DPT shot caused permanent brain damage and a life-long seizure disorder. When she was 11 years old, doctors convinced my mother she had to have the MMR booster, which contributed to her death a week later. We were "lucky" that her reactions had a clear link to vaccinations. She was compensated by the federal government for the damage vaccines caused and was financially taken care of for the rest of her life. Unfortunately, her life was cut short because of her disabilities caused by vaccinations. You might think I would be against vaccinations because of my experiences, but I'm not. I do not advocate that everyone decline immunization. I encourage parents to educate themselves about the risk and benefits of immunization and to make a thoughtful decision for themselves and their children.

I have two beautiful nephews that I worry about having a vaccine reaction. Their mother, my sister, must worry about whether to vaccinate her children or risk discrimination in child care and schooling. Even with a strong family history of serious vaccine reaction, she is unable to get a medical exemption for vaccination.

I urge you to allow all parents the right to make medical decisions for their own children by allowing a conscientious exemption to immunization. Other states with conscientious exemptions have shown that most parents will continue to vaccinate their children as scheduled. Parents who would use this exemption have agonized over the decision and are thoughtful and educated about their choices. Please allow these parents to exercise their right to informed consent and parental rights by passing HB 2094.

Thank you,

Renee Meyer