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SB 276 Naps In Suspense, While Infant Mortality Crawls Up

Sacramento – While the California legislature enjoys a summer break, A Voice For Choice Advocacy and citizen scientists work to share cited, referenced information about why SB 276 is a bad bill.

“No one likes SB 276,” said Christina Hildebrand, President of AVFCA, “It brings backlash from families, along with their doctors who have done the necessary research, and recognize a public health bill should address much bigger concerns, like child mortality rates.”

The bill’s author, Senator Richard Pan, said the bill was in response to measles outbreaks in California, and necessary to protect public health from “fraudulent” doctors writing medical exemptions. The doctors deemed “fraudulent” all specialize in working with families of medically vulnerable children. There is no scientific justification for singling these families out, as no measles cases occurred in school populations, and the [CDC’s 2007 study](#) showed that waning immunity is the cause of new outbreaks. In 2016, the [CDC conducted another study](#), which concluded a third dose (booster) of the MMR only lasts one year, and would not solve the problem.

In 1963, when the MMR was introduced in the U.S, [there was a 1 in 10,000 chance of dying from measles](#) (about the same as being struck by lightning). The current infant mortality rate (chance of a child dying in the first year of life), [is 1 in 170](#). That’s a 60 times bigger problem today than measles was back then, when [almost every child had measles by age 15 and 99.99% fully recovered](#).

Senator Pan, like the average doctor, is not yet familiar with the research findings published 15 years ago, given that it takes an average of 17 years for research to make it to the mainstream doctor’s office. This lack of knowledge has resulted in writing faulty legislation. Education efforts press on as doctors, individuals, and Health Rights groups like A Voice for Choice Advocacy strive to protect the doctor patient relationship and informed consent for California families.

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