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SB 276 Limpes out of the State Senate

Sacramento – SB 276, the controversial bill by Richard Pan, which would allow state officials to override doctors’ judgments about whether a sick, disabled, or genetically susceptible child could be safely vaccinated, passed the California State Senate, garnering just three votes more than it needed.

The bill has been controversial because it represents a historic first. Traditionally, the government has chosen not to interfere with the intimacies of the doctor-patient relationship, leaving medical matters up to a physician’s judgment. SB 276 allows for that judgment to be second-guessed by California government officials.

“This legislation opens the door to doctors being questioned by the government if they don’t toe the line of whichever party happens to be in power,” said Christina Hildebrand, Executive Director of the medical-freedom non-profit A Voice for Choice Advocacy. “Once you let government into these intimate relationships, patients lose privacy, and one can imagine all sorts of mischief being crafted in other states that question doctors’ decisions on a variety of intimate decisions.”

The bill now heads to the California State Assembly, where it faces a tough battle. The more populist Assembly has traditionally been focused of the rights of the outnumbered. During previous scares, the Assembly has rejected some of the more extreme proposals that inevitably arise during such times.

Will doctors really have to share with the government that a patient of theirs has a certain disease, just to prove why they recommended a certain course of action? That will be the case if SB276 passes.

Press Contact: Christina Hildebrand,
A Voice for Choice Advocacy, Inc.
408.835.9353
christina@avoiceforchoice.org
WWW.AVOICEFORCHOICEADVOCACY.ORG
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/avoiceforchoice>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/avoiceforchoic>