

RESOLUTION

Subject: Strengthening Immunization Requirements for School Attendance in Kentucky

Submitted by: Lexington Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

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WHEREAS, vaccination is among the most successful public health interventions in history, preventing millions of cases of disease, disability, and death; and

WHEREAS, routine childhood immunization has led to dramatic reductions in vaccine-preventable diseases including measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, polio, tetanus, and pertussis; and

WHEREAS, high vaccination coverage creates community protection that helps safeguard infants, immunocompromised individuals, cancer patients, transplant recipients, and others who cannot safely receive certain vaccines; and

WHEREAS, recent measles outbreaks in the United States have demonstrated the ongoing risk posed by declining vaccination rates and clusters of under-vaccinated individuals; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence overwhelmingly supports the safety and effectiveness of vaccines; and

WHEREAS, school immunization requirements have consistently been associated with higher vaccination rates and reduced transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS, medical exemptions provide appropriate protection for children with legitimate contraindications to vaccination while preserving public health protections for the broader community; and

WHEREAS, physicians have an ethical obligation to advocate for evidence-based measures that prevent disease and protect public health; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA reaffirms its support for evidence-based immunization requirements for attendance in public schools, private schools, and licensed childcare facilities in Kentucky; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA advocates for the retention of medically indicated exemptions while opposing the creation or expansion of non-medical exemptions to school immunization requirements; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA supports public education initiatives that communicate the safety, effectiveness, and public health benefits of childhood immunization.