



American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



New Jersey Chapter

Support A3818 and S2173

In January 2019, the General Assembly amended Assembly bill 3818 to clarify that the only exemptions from mandatory vaccination will be medical exemptions. Senate bill 2173 must be considered by the Senate Health Committee where it will be amended to be identical to the Assembly bill. The legislation must then pass both houses of the Legislature. Our goal is to get this legislation to the Governor's desk before the Legislature goes on summer recess at the end of June.

Vaccines remain one of the single most important public health advancements of the 21st century. Since the religious exemption law became more permissive in 2008, the number of "religious" exemptions has increased by a factor of 7.5. Many parents are using the current religious statute as a personal belief exemption, contrary to the intent of the law, resulting in a threat to public health.

The anti-vaccination lobby is small in numbers but is well organized and passionate about their opposition to this bill. We must be equally as passionate about our support for the bill. Legislators must hear directly from pediatricians and their patients expressing their strong support for the legislation. Given the current measles outbreak, we believe that the climate is right to urge legislators to hear, and ultimately pass this bill.

We ask that you contact your legislator via phone or via email (template message/email below) as soon as possible. Together, we can amend New Jersey's legislation and work toward our organizations mission of attaining optimal health, safety, and well-being of New Jersey's children.

For pediatricians:

I am calling (or writing) to urge you to vote for Assembly bill 3818 (or Senate bill 2173) to clarify that only a medical exemption from vaccination will be permitted in NJ. There is no credible evidence that vaccines are harmful. Furthermore, the myth that vaccines cause autism has been disproven through several scientific studies. As pediatricians it would be irresponsible for us to stay silent in the face of a resurgence of a disease like measles which had all but been eradicated two decades ago. Together, we can amend New Jersey's legislation and work toward our organizations mission of attaining optimal health, safety, and well-being of New Jersey's children.

For parents:

I am calling (or writing) to urge you to vote for Assembly bill 3818 (or Senate bill 2173) to clarify that only a medical exemption from vaccination will be permitted in NJ. I have responsibly vaccinated my children and am concerned that we are on the verge of losing herd immunity because too many others are not being responsible.

[Please download the list of senators and assembly members here to contact to voice your opinion.](#)

