



712 H Street NE, Suite 1507
Washington, DC 20002

(202) 783-7034 

info@vaccinateyourfamily.org 

vaccinateyourfamily.org 

February 4, 2026

Dear Committee Members,

As one of the nation's most respected nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations committed to reducing the burden of vaccine-preventable diseases in people of all ages, Vaccinate Your Family strongly opposes HF2171, a bill that aims to remove elementary and secondary student immunization requirements in Iowa.

Immunization requirements are critical in protecting our students, their families, and our communities from deadly diseases. The United States is facing outbreaks at record-breaking numbers, with elevated numbers of pertussis cases and outbreaks of measles, with [Iowa](#) reporting measles cases in 2025. Studies show that in areas with lower vaccination rates, there is an associated increased risk of infection and death from vaccine-preventable disease in that population.

Preschools and K-12 school districts in Iowa require immunization documentation for enrollment and allow exemptions for religious and medical reasons. No child in Iowa is mandated to receive an immunization.

Despite this, [approximately 89 percent](#) of kindergartners in Iowa are vaccinated. Parents want to know their children are protected from infectious diseases when they send them to school, with [70% of adults](#) supporting school immunization requirements.

Vaccines not only protect the individual who received the vaccine from a highly contagious and potentially deadly disease but also protect others. High immunization rates are critical to creating community (or herd) immunity, safeguarding those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons and those who are not yet fully vaccinated due to their age. Because no vaccine is 100 percent protective, high levels of community immunity also protect the small proportion of vaccinated individuals whose bodies do not make a protective immune response to a vaccine. Lower vaccination rates lead to higher levels of disease, jeopardizing children, their families, and their communities.

Creating a vaccine requirement is not an arbitrary process. Generally, immunizations are not added to the school entry requirements until they have been on the market for an extended period, have sufficient safety data, are widely accepted by parents and providers, and are easily accessible and covered by insurance or the Vaccines for Children program. These school

requirements are enacted as the final mile to ensure that any child or student that has missed their vaccine(s) can be brought up to date and remain safe from deadly infectious diseases in their places of care and learning.

Disease outbreaks also require a huge investment of public health staff and financial resources to control and contain outbreaks once they have begun. A single case of measles is estimated to cost approximately [\\$43,000](#), and as of January 30, 2026 there have been [588](#) confirmed cases of measles in the United States this year. A [2018-19 outbreak](#) in New York City, New York with 649 cases cost \$10.6 million, and an [outbreak](#) in Clark County, Washington, with 71 cases cost an estimated \$4.3 million in total societal costs. It's far better—for the health and economics of a state—to vaccinate children and adults to prevent these diseases than to have to treat the illnesses.

Vaccine requirements for school and daycare entry have a proven track record of increasing immunization rates and keeping children and adolescents, along with their communities, safe. If Iowa removes requirements—without any studies on the effects—children and communities in Iowa will be at risk for preventable diseases. For this reason, we strongly request you **vote no on HF2171** and protect policies that keep Iowan communities safe.

Most Sincerely,

Amy Pisani

Amy Pisani, MS
CEO, Vaccinate Your Family