

28 July 2015

Michelle Davis, Executive Director
Washington State Board of Health
P.O. Box 47990
Olympia, WA 98504-7990



Dear Ms. Davis,

I'm writing to you today as the director of PKIDs (Parents of Kids with Infectious Diseases). We're a national nonprofit based out of Washington state, serving families around the country whose children have been affected by various diseases, many of which are vaccine-preventable.

We also educate the public about methods of disease transmission and prevention. As you're too aware, prevention is key to public health. We would all prefer to stop disease before it has a chance to start.

We are proud to claim residence in the state of Washington, as the work you do on our State Board of Health is a major factor in the well-being of all those who live in this beautiful part of the country.

To build on the success Washington state enjoys, we would encourage the Board of Health to conduct a formal review of meningitis, with the goal of determining if vaccination against this infection should be required for school entry.

We believe it should. Meningitis is a rare and horrible infection that can damage organs, limbs, hearing, the brain, and even cause death in those infected. This is not a risk any of us should take with our children's health.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has made many recommendations concerning the vaccines available to fight this disease. We hope that you and the other members of the Board of Health take the lead by ensuring all young people are protected against this awful infection.

If you have any questions or would like more information on this topic, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Our website also provides information about meningitis at: www.pkids.org/meningitis.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

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