
The Importance of Vaccine Choice In Wisconsin

Unlike prescription drugs given to individuals who are ill, vaccines are pharmaceutical products administered to healthy people. Vaccines, like prescription drugs, come with risks – the risk of injury or death and the risk that they may fail to prevent illness. For some, the risk may be greater than for others.

In the United States, vaccines are:

- ❖ Researched and developed by private drug companies and public health agencies
- ❖ Licensed by the Food and Drug Administration
- ❖ Manufactured and distributed for profit by pharmaceutical companies
- ❖ Recommended for use by the CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and private medical trade associations including the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American College of Physicians (ACP).
- ❖ Mandated by state legislatures
- ❖ Required as a condition of employment by some state agencies or private businesses operating hospitals and other facilities

Pharmaceutical companies who manufacture vaccines and health care providers who administer these products are shielded by Congress and the United States Supreme Court from product liability and malpractice civil lawsuits when vaccines cause injury and death.^{1 2}

Vaccine manufacturers are the only corporations selling products in this country that cannot be sued, even when there is evidence the company could have made their product less likely to injure or kill people. Without liability, there are no incentives for pharmaceutical companies to make their products safer.

Vaccines are the only commercial product that state governments legally require every parent to buy and have administered to their children as a condition for school entry.

Vaccine exemptions must be protected to permit families to make health care choices that are best suited for themselves and their families, based on individual predispositions and susceptibilities.

¹ U.S. Code 42 USC CHAPTER 6A, SUBCHAPTER XIX, Part 2: National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program From Title 42—THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE - CHAPTER 6A—PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE SUBCHAPTER XIX—VACCINES (<https://tinyurl.com/y4lmzxc8>)

² U.S. Supreme Court. *Bruesewitz v. Wyeth* 09-152; Feb. 22, 2011. (<https://tinyurl.com/hz82q44>)