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Wisconsin United for Freedom Statement Regarding the JCRAR Suspension of Portions of Wisconsin DHS Student Immunization Code

Madison, WI (March 9, 2023) – After weeks of proactive citizen lobbying efforts by members of Wisconsin United for Freedom (WUFF), and after the 9 hour long public hearing on Tuesday, March 7th, 2023 in the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR), JCRAR voted in favor of suspending certain DHS 144 rules.

In 2019 Wisconsin DHS proposed rule changes that went into effect Feb. 1, 2023, one of which **added the meningococcal vaccine to Wisconsin's vaccine requirements** for 7th and 12th graders.

Today, those rules were suspended.

“Wisconsinites from across the state attended this hearing to make their voices heard and to tell their elected officials that they do not want any more vaccination requirements added to our childhood schedule. How many is too many, and who gets to decide?” said Tara Czachor, Co-Founder of Wisconsin United for Freedom. **“Wisconsin DHS should not be unilaterally making additional vaccine requirements for Wisconsin children without legislative oversight. We are very happy with this outcome, and that Wisconsin parents will continue to be in the driver’s seat as it relates to medical decisions for their children.”**

Senator Nass released a statement specifying which rules were suspended. The suspension:

1. Removes the meningitis vaccine (first and second doses) from the table of required immunizations. Removes references in the rule related to requiring the meningitis vaccine.
2. Removes Varicella (Chicken Pox) and Meningococcal disease from the list of diseases for which DHS can exercise their “substantial outbreak” powers.
3. Removes the new requirement that a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice nurse prescriber must confirm a child’s history of chicken pox in order for the student to be exempt from having to receive the vaccine. *Previously the administrative code required only a parent to document that their child had previously had chicken pox for the exemption to apply.

Wisconsin has 3 vaccine exemptions available for parents/guardians to use to exempt out of requirements in order to attend school and day care. Please visit www.wuffstrong.org for more information.

About Wisconsin United For Freedom: *Wisconsin United For Freedom is a Wisconsin 501(c)4, committed to protecting fundamental rights and defending freedom for all Wisconsin residents.*

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