



**Colorado House Public Health & Human Services Committee  
Theresa Wrangham Testimony on HB 1297  
March 13, 2020**

Mr. Chair and committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I'm Theresa Wrangham, the executive director for the National Vaccine Information Center and a Colorado resident. The National Vaccine Information Center supports HB 1297.

Because vaccines are liability free commercial pharmaceutical products that carry a risk of injury or death, it is necessary for Colorado to clarify existing statute (C.R.S. 25-4-2403) which prohibits using vaccine exemptions as the sole determining factor for abuse or neglect. The ability to exercise the human right to delay or decline one or more vaccines is necessarily protected in our state and placement of this protection properly belongs under in Colorado's Children's Code.

In placing clarifying language proposed by HB 1297 in Colorado's Children's Code, professionals legally required to report abuse and neglect have clear direction that vaccine delay or refusal alone does not constitute abuse or neglect. HB 1297 will create statutory consistency and require appropriate training and legal accountability (C.R.S. 19-3-313.5 and C.R.S. 19-3-304) for false reporting through linkage in the Children's Code that is absent in current language placement under Colorado's Title 25. More importantly, your yes vote today will prevent children from being erroneously separated from their family.

NVIC respectfully asks for your yes vote on this bill that is simply a clean-up measure and proper placement of this ~~placement~~ <sup>language</sup> in the Children's Code.

I welcome your questions.