

I am the parent of a child with a chronic immunodeficiency disorder. Doctors disagree about whether he should receive vaccines, and currently, I have the freedom to take all of their advice and use it to make informed medical decisions about when and whether he should have each vaccine. As his mother, I understand his history and current condition best.

I have another child who suffers PTSD related to medical trauma. I have always consulted with her pediatrician about each vaccine recommended and gotten her those that make the most sense based on risk of exposure. She is vaccinated against the major threats, including measles, pertussis, and tetanus.

Many more vaccines are required now than when I was a child, including the dubious HPV vaccine, which lacks long-term trials. As a parent, it's my responsibility to determine what is best for my children. Public policy should be narrowly tailored to protect public health without overreaching into parents' rights to protect their kids from potential harm. I am not an "anti-vaccer" and understand the value of vaccines, but it simply is untrue that they are completely harmless, and parents must retain the right to decide what is best for their children's well being.

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