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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–0917

March 5, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I write to you today to commend your Administration for its steadfast and principled commitment to defending civil rights and religious liberty, two fundamental values enshrined in our Constitution. These unwavering efforts have reaffirmed the fundamental truth that the free exercise of religion is not a privilege granted by the government, but a right endowed to every American. However, I write to bring to your attention the issue of students who are unable to access education due to overreaching and coercive vaccine requirements[1].

Multiple states do not allow medical or religious exemptions for required school immunizations[2] and have acted against students who are not vaccinated[3]. As you are aware, the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment guarantees that Americans may practice their faith without undue interference from the government. Vaccine mandate laws that fail to accommodate religious beliefs represent a clear and coercive intrusion on this freedom, compelling individuals and families to act in direct contradiction to their faith.

Recognizing this, in February 2025, you issued Executive Order 14214, entitled "*Keeping Education Accessible and Ending COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in Schools.*" This executive order bars federal funds from being used on institutions that enact COVID-19 vaccine mandates. While this has certainly provided much-needed relief to families, they are still subjected to other vaccine requirements that conflict with their sincerely held beliefs.

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[1] Nana-Sentuo Bonsu, "DC Public Schools Begin Turning Away Students Who Are Behind on Immunization Requirements," FOX 5 DC, updated December 8, 2023, https://www.fox5dc.com/news/dc-public-schools-begin-turning-away-students-who-are-behind-on-immunization-requirements.
[2] National Conference of State Legislatures, "State Non-Medical Exemptions from School Immunization Requirements," updated January 22, 2026, https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-non-medical-exemptions-from-school-immunization-requirements
[3] Carolyn Gusoff, "Long Island Teen Can Return to School Despite Not Getting Third Hepatitis B Vaccine, Judge Rules," CBS News New York, August 14, 2025, https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/oceanside-school-district-teenager-banned-hepatitis-b-vaccine/.

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Education is compulsory in every state[4] and parents are legally obligated to ensure their children attend school. When schools deny students access based on vaccination status, families are placed in an untenable position; they must either violate their sincerely held religious beliefs or risk facing serious legal consequences. Such policies create a coercive dynamic that pressures families to abandon their religious convictions to avoid state-imposed penalties.

I am writing to respectfully request that your administration take all available measures, up to and including an executive order, to ensure the full and proper protection of individuals' civil and religious liberties with respect to all vaccines.

Families and parents have the right to determine what is best for their child's healthcare, guided by their sincerely held beliefs, medical judgment, and individual circumstances. Parents deserve a meaningful choice in these personal decisions without fear of government coercion or punitive consequences. When government policies effectively eliminate parental discretion in matters of healthcare, they raise serious concerns about the preservation of parental rights. Ensuring that parents retain authority over medical decisions affecting their children is consistent with foundational value of individual liberty.

Taking further action through executive order would be in line with the America First agenda that your Administration has successfully implemented. While the United States Congress works to take meaningful action, I respectfully urge your Administration to take all available steps, up to and including issuing an executive order, to ensure the appropriate protection of individuals' civil liberties and religious freedom with respect to all vaccines.

Sincerely,

W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress

[4] National Center for Education Statistics, Table 5.1. Compulsory School Attendance Laws, Minimum and Maximum Age Limits for Required Free Education, by State: 2017, NCES, accessed March 3, 2026, https://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/tab5_1.asp.