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Hundreds Rally For Their Right To Not Vaccinate Their Children (msn.com)

Posted by EditorDavid on Saturday February 09, 2019 @10:34AM from the wisdom-versus-crowds dept.

CBS News reports that as Washington state confronts a measles outbreak which has sickened at least 56 people, "hundreds rallied to preserve their right not to vaccinate their children."

They packed a public hearing for a new bill making it harder for families to opt out of vaccination requirements, reports The Washington Post. An estimated 700 people, most of them opposed to stricter requirements, lined up before dawn in the cold, toting strollers and hand-lettered signs, to sit in the hearing.... The Pacific Northwest is home to some of the nation's most vocal and organized anti-vaccination activists. That movement has helped drive down child immunizations in Washington, as well as in neighboring Oregon and Idaho, to some of the lowest rates in the country, with as many as 10.5 percent of kindergartners statewide in Idaho unvaccinated for measles. That is almost double the median rate nationally....

One activist who spoke Friday, Mary Holland, who teaches at New York University law school and said her son has a vaccine-related injury, warned lawmakers that if the bill passes, many vaccine opponents will "move out of the state, or go underground, but they will not comply."

The sponsor of a similar bill in Oregon says that anti-vaxxers "have every right to make a bad decision in the health of their child, but that does not give them the right to send an unprotected kid to public school. So if they want to homeschool their kid and keep them out of other environments, that's their decision."

But there are still 17 U.S. states that allow "personal or philosophic exemptions to vaccination requirements," reports the Post, "meaning virtually anyone can opt out." (Though some states are now considering changes.) "The enablers are state legislators in those states, that have allowed themselves to be played," complains Dr. Peter Hotez, a co-director of the Texas Children's Hospital Center for Vaccine Development at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

The World Health Organization estimates that measles vaccines have saved over 21 million lives since 2000. But last year in the European region's population of nearly 900 million people, at least 82,600 people contracted measles, reports Reuters. "Of those, 72 cases were fatal."

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Understood (Score:5, Insightful) by Mephit (10017) * on Saturday February 09, 2019 @10:35AM (#58094172)

If they go live on a deserted island and never come back, I'm OK with it. And should not be allowed to mingle with normal people.

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Re: (Score:3, Insightful) by Anonymous Coward

Vaccination doesn't give immunity, it gives increased resistance. So being exposed to lots of people with the diseases can still get you infected.

On top of that herd immunity is an important factor and protecting people whose immune system is compromised at the moment, such as chemotherapy patients.

Not sure why I feed the troll.

Re: Understood (Score:4, Insightful) by Dumbal (464142) * on Saturday February 09, 2019 @11:08AM (#58094320)

Vaccination doesn't give immunity, it gives increased resistance. Increased to the point of functional immunity for all intents and purposes. There will be the odd case slipping through the cracks - someone with anergy or another other problem of the immune system. Of course you are right that repeated massive exposure heightens the risk of vaccine failure - but the reason these things are used in the first place is because they are highly effective.

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Re: (Score:2) by Rei (128717)

On the upside, if you're a kid being bullied by an anti-vax kid, you can always retaliate by sneezing in their lunchbox... :)

(Anti-vax kids are like dark humour - they never grow old)

Re: (Score:2) by HiThere (15173)

No. You overestimate the effectiveness of the vaccine. If everyone is vaccinated, then the disease will die because it can't spread effectively, but if several vaccinated people are exposed it's reasonably likely that more than one will come down with the disease. OTOH, their bodies will (usually) mount a stronger and quicker defense, so they're less likely to end up with neurological damage.

That said, measles isn't smallpox. Most people who catch it don't have any permanent aftereffects. (Do you feel

Re: (Score:2) by nospam007 (722110) *

"Cancer isn't contagious. Unlike stupidity." You've heard of oncoviruses, yes? An oncovirus is a virus that can cause cancer. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/... [wikipedia.org]

But it's not as contagious as that stupidity virus you seem to suffer from.

Re: (Score:2) by F.Ultra (1673484)

While you can get cancer from oncoviruses AFAIK they are not spread from other diseases and not from cancer patients.

Re: (Score:2) by F.Ultra (1673484)

ok, one "not" too many there...

Re: (Score:3) by Dumbal (464142) *

The ones that, knowing they have a contagious disease, take no measures to reduce their effect on the rest of society or even still intentionally try to spread it to others - sure, why not. Send them away too. You are seriously equating preventable (vaccines, condoms, etc) contagious illness with cancer - which may be preventable sometimes but certainly is not contagious? (Yes some viruses have been associated with increased risk of cancer - HPV, Hep C, etc but having the virus does not guarantee cancer and

Re: (Score:2) by sg_oneill (159032)

While we are at it lets banish the folks with hepatitis and aids to an island as well. Perhaps we should also isolate the cancer folks since we really dont have a handle on that. Hep and HIV are not casually contagious. Isolation would achieve nothing

But we can vaccinate against Hep, and HIV is not fatal anymore as long as the 3 drug regime is followed. Cancer is 100% non contagious

However, a virus we regularly vaccinate against (HPV) can cause it. All the viruses we vaccinate against however ARE contagious and

Re: (Score:2) by nospam007 (722110) *

"I'm of mixed opinion. Measles is nasty as hell, I have no problem with requiring that vaccine. It's airborne and can linger for hours after an infected person leaves an area. But HPV is not in the same league,"

You think that just because you don't have a cervix.

Re: (Score:2) by HiThere (15173)

Well, and because the effects on males aren't as well known. I've read a study that there are deleterious effects, but I still don't remember what they were.

Also: It's important with HPV that you get vaccinated well before any exposure. Again, I don't remember the details about why, but it should be done well before the child is sexually active. IIRC 8 years old was being recommended. Perhaps it takes the immunity awhile to develop.

Re: (Score:2) by Dumbal (464142) *

There are plenty of large islands. Britain... New Zealand, and worse comes to worse, Australia :)

Re: (Score:2) by Dumbal (464142) *

To be fair they are mostly a danger to their children and to other unvaccinated children. But yes, something like this could be interpreted (and is interpreted in some parts of the world) as child abuse.

Re: Understood (Score:3, Interesting) by js290 (697670)

BACKGROUND: The largest measles epidemic in North America in the last decade, occurred in 2011 in Quebec, Canada, where rates of 1- and 2-dose vaccine coverage among children 3 years of age were 95%-97% and 90%, respectively, with 3%-5% unvaccinated [nih.gov]

Re: (Score:3) by hill_mcgongile (4333) *

People who refuse to merge with nanobots will also be called a burden on society. I hope you're ready to call for the forced mechanization of humans into cyborgs. Vaccines barely existed a century ago so be sure that new scientific opportunities become obligations under the State-as-religion philosophy.

Social Darwinism is a more powerful force, btw. But gotta wear that Resistance is Futile Che shirt, I get it.

Re: (Score:2) by dunkelfalke (91624)

While I despise social darwinism, I actually wouldn't mind to be turned into a cyborg.

Re: (Score:3) by F.Ultra (1673484)

Totally with you, I mean which sane person would want their enemies to live a longer healthier life?

Other Religious Exemptions (Score:3, Funny) by Anonymous Coward on Saturday February 09, 2019 @10:43AM (#58094186)

I want a religious exemption from speed limits.

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Re: (Score:2) by Empiric (675968)

The idea this is a "religious" issue is just a pathetic attempt at guilt-by-association by the Left. The irrationality of this is all yours. There is no supportable religious principle to not vaccinate, and the people stirring up this controversy are not doing so on a supposed religious basis.

Re: (Score:3) by Empiric (675968)

I see in your sentence that somebody faked some studies. That doesn't connect it to religion anywhere but in Logical Fallacy Land.

In the interest of the actual topic at hand, though, here's a comprehensive timeline [measlesrub...iative.org].

Re: (Score:2) by Empiric (675968)

I can only read per your bizarre logic. You claim it was within "the religious context", providing no evidence, and the vast, vast majority of religious people will never have heard anything whatsoever anti-vaxx within their community or church. Without the popularization of this notion has mainly come through celebrities, through secular channels and further, religious backing of their arguments (naturally, since there is none).

So, I deny that part has any validity. Then you name somebody (presumably so

Re: Other Religious Exemptions (Score:1) by Laszlo Kerekes (4378423)

I get that you were born in the 90s, polio?

Re: (Score:2) by Empiric (675968)

What is the religious issue? How do vaccines relate to anything in the Bible? What is immoral about them?

a) there isn't one b) they don't c) nothing

With the overwhelming amount of evidence for their benefit, the Bible would advocate for them--under the basic directive to "love your neighbor as yourself", including not spreading diseases to them.

The secular direction on this would be, naturally, a pointless projection of erroneous guilt toward religion, and having -absolutely no- basis for this or an

Re: (Score:2) by F.Ultra (1673484)

There are various religious sects/cults that believe that any form of disease is gods punishment for not being

devout. One in particular is the "Church of Christ, Scientist". Other known groups are "Church of the First Born, and Time Ministries, Faith Assembly, Faith Tabernacle and First Century Gospel Church", they all practice healing over medical care so practice anti-vaccinations as part of their anti-medicine doctrine. There are also some Amish, and some Muslim fundamentalists that are anti-vaccination

Re: (Score:2)
by [HiThere \(15173\)](#)

For some people there is a religious issue due to the Bible saying something like blood is sacred, and only God can be a blood sucking monster. And so some people read that as saying anything built from blood is taboo, i.e. religiously forbidden. And there are those who honestly believe that and take it seriously. But I don't think you can count anyone who doesn't at minimum keep kosher, and probably insists on vegetarian cuisine. (Not vegan, that's a more extreme form whose roots I've never looked into

Re: (Score:2)
by [bill_mcgonigle \(4333\)](#) *

The varicella vaccine is derived from cloned cells from an aborted fetus, fyi.
Make accurate arguments in favor of vaccines or *you* appear to be the religious kook to the antivaxxers.

Re: (Score:2)
by [mark-t \(151149\)](#)

What about a religious exemption against dying?
I mean, if you're going to try for a religious exemption against a certain thing in life, then why not go for broke?
[1 hidden comment](#)

Re: (Score:2)
by [mark-t \(151149\)](#)

Well yeah... but the point was about trying to get a religious exemption to things that are certain in *LIFE*... when one is in heaven, they have, typically speaking, almost certainly already died.

Re: (Score:2)
by [Dunbal \(464142\)](#) *

As a practicing Aztec I want a religious exemption for murder. It just doesn't feel right when I can't cut someone's heart out with an obsidian knife and throw their corpse down my pyramid.
Freedom must have limits. One of them is public health.

Re: (Score:2)
by [PolygamousRanchKid \(1290638\)](#)

I want a religious exemption from speed limits.
Does anyone know of a religion that forbids paying taxes . . . ? I'd like to become a believer.
There are so many wacky religions out there . . . there's probably ones that forbid driving on the right side of the road or brushing your teeth.
And I don't get how Christian folks say Jesus was against vaccinations. He trotted around healing lepers with his touch, which is kinda sorta like giving folks vaccinations.

Re: (Score:2)
by [EUltra \(1673484\)](#)

Well Scientology was founded just so Hubbard wouldn't have to pay any taxes. I do however gladly pay way more taxes before ever contemplating going down that rabbit hole.

Re: (Score:3)
by [Dunbal \(464142\)](#) *

Debunked, debunked and debunked. There are quite a few studies that show there's no link between mercury compounds in vaccines and autism. And believe it or not scientists and health care professionals are not "out to get you" with some giant conspiracy to give your kid autism.

Call CPS (Score:4, Interesting)
by [brickhouse98 \(4677765\)](#) on Saturday February 09, 2019 @10:50AM (#58094220)

Call CPS, have them come get the kids. It's a danger to themselves and to the public safety. Enough with these loony tunes who think it's their right to endanger their offspring and the general population.
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Re: (Score:2)
by [brickhouse98 \(4677765\)](#)

How about worrying about the kids who never had a choice who get one of these terrible diseases? Not to mention the ones who are unable to get a vaccine for a multitude of reasons- "Some individuals either cannot develop immunity after vaccination or for medical reasons cannot be vaccinated.[14][15][4][14] Newborn infants are too young to receive many vaccines, either for safety reasons or because passive immunity renders the vaccine ineffective.[16] Individuals who are immunodeficient due to HIV/AIDS, lym

This is what happens when you cut fed funding (Score:2, Interesting)
by [rsilvergun \(571051\)](#)

to schools. In America schools are funded at the local level by property taxes. That means that unless the feds step in to make up the difference you get really really rich schools and really really poor ones. This is how we can spend more on average than the rest of the world but with worse outcomes. We're putting all our eggs in one basket (the rich kid's one). But Herd Immunity doesn't give a rats ass how much money your mom and dad have.
[1 hidden comment](#)

Re:This is what happens when you cut fed funding (Score:4)
by [Dunbal \(464142\)](#) * on Saturday February 09, 2019 @11:27AM (#58094414)

Working through your post it seems you are suggesting that more funding would solve this issue. I don't think throwing more money at schools would fix anything, apart from them building more and bigger gyms, having nicer vacations and buying more iPads (nominally for the kids but actually for the staff). Mismanagement of funding is also a thing.
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If they don't want to vax their kids... (Score:4, Interesting)
by [QuietLagoon \(413062\)](#) on Saturday February 09, 2019 @10:50AM (#58094224)

... then they should pay for the public health costs that arise because of their decision. It is a welfare of the community issue. Laws are often made to protect the community from the bad decisions of individuals.
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Re: (Score:1)
by Anonymous Coward

VAXING THE KID
Parent: Doctor, Doctor!, Little Jimmy is behaving strangely after the vaccination last week, his ribs look bruised, and he is speaking strangely, what's wrong with him?
Doctor: Everything will be fine. Now Jimmy, you feel fine don't you, let's examine you?
Jimmy: SHOW PROCESS/ALL
Parent: See he keeps talking like that?
Doctor: Nothing, it's perfectly normal
Jimmy: PURGE /KEEP=N PARENTS.TXT
Doctor: Now, Jimmy, be nice!

Re: (Score:3)
by [hurtosis \(1124179\)](#)

This sounds good on the outside but fails upon examination. Young children can't be vaccinated, the age they can depends on the specific vaccine, but as a general rule infants are unprotected. The elderly are also at increased risk even if vaccinated. Then there are some few people with whom a particular vaccination isn't particularly effective. Those may be a small minority of the vaccinated population but they often don't even know who they are. There are also a small minority of people with whom the

Re: (Score:3)
by [Registered Coward v2 \(447531\)](#)

... then they should pay for the public health costs that arise because of their decision. It is a welfare of the community issue. Laws are often made to protect the community from the bad decisions of individuals. Exactly. Non vaccinators should pay for increased risk they self select, unless there is a real medical reason not to. They also should not be allowed to send kids to public schools where they endanger kids who can't be vaccinated for valid reasons. They are entitled to be stupid but not endanger others.

Re: (Score:2)
by [kiviOr \(3443687\)](#)

If you do start with that - then tax sugar, fast food, tabaco, vap, alcohol, gasoline, coal, plastic, and everything else to support wealth of the community.

Their health insurance should cover the risks... (Score:4, Interesting)
by [fkom \(3519199\)](#) on Saturday February 09, 2019 @10:52AM (#58094230)

... of those who contract measles, and their insurance fees should reflect that added risk.
Only by making the costs or either decision transparent, you can address both the unfounded and the founded fears of vaccinations risks versus non-vaccinations risks.

While the benefit of the measles vaccination seems obvious to most, actual scandals surrounding other vaccinations have cast shadows of doubt on just every vaccination, especially for those who do not differentiate.

One tragic contemporary example:
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world...> [bbc.com] /
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/...> [wikipedia.org]
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Re: (Score:2)
by [CanadianMacFan \(1900244\)](#)

And what price are you going to put on the price of a death caused by them not vaccinating their child(ren)?

Re: (Score:2)
by [fkom \(3519199\)](#)

This has been subject to lots of prior considerations - see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/...> [wikipedia.org]

Re: (Score:2)
by [hurtosis \(1124179\)](#)

As with any actual medical analysis, the details are important, often difficult to understand for people who aren't medical professionals, and sadly often give rise to irrational fears among the population. If you look at [the WHO analysis](#) [who.int] there is a group of people who are at risk for a slightly negative outcome over those in that same subset of people who went unvaccinated. This can be in principle reduced to a positive for society and individuals with a screening test, even if there is a slight false ne

Re: (Score:2)
by [Dunbal \(464142\)](#) *

Following your own logic - if every American born citizen is vaccinated then it doesn't matter if illegals come with disease as it would strictly affect illegals...

"have every right to make a bad decision" (Score:5, Insightful)
by [ZombieCatInABox \(5665338\)](#) on Saturday February 09, 2019 @11:01AM (#58094286)

"have every right to make a bad decision in the health of their child"
No they fucking don't. Whenever someone causes harm to their children, either by a deliberate act or neglect, we call it child abuse. Why would this be any different ?
I'm appaled by the number of people who still see their children as we did in barbaric times; as their personal property, to do with them as they please, with the right of life and death over them.
We are not fucking barbarians anymore. This is the 21st century. We live in a civilized society now, or at least we should be. And in civilized societies, human beings don't own other human beings. Your children are not *your* children, no matter what your fucking animal instincts tell you. Your children, are *citizens*, just like you are, with the whole gamut of basic human rights every evolved and civilized culture agrees on. They are *under your care* until they reach the legal age of independence. And until then, you are *required*, by *law*, and by *basic human decency* to provide them with the best possible care. And so is society as a whole. That's why every civilized nation has mandatory education. And also why every such nation has, or *should have* nationalized health care for all children.
Grow the fuck up, people. Barbarism, tribalism, social Darwinism are over. Join the civilized world.
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False Premise of Medical Herd Immunity Drives Vacc (Score:1)
by Anonymous Coward

<https://vaxxter.com/false-premise-of-medical-herd-immunity-drives-vaccination/>
Over the last several months we have heard about an outbreak of measles in New York State that is being described as the "worst outbreak since the 1990s." The news has focused its attention on an Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn saying it has been "particularly hard hit."
Just how many cases of measles are we talking about?
Well, according to Newsweek, as of January 8, 2019, there have been 55 confirmed

Re: (Score:1)
by Anonymous Coward

Hey ZCAB,
The definition of "harm to their children" means different things to different people.
In a free country, the right of a parent to raise their child in the way that the parent chooses is and I will defend. Otherwise, the government raises the child, and those in power who are unaccountable to you and I will decide the definition of "harm to children".
You have to be able to see the difference between a parent who beats and abuses their child physically, and a parent who believes that it is a better risk t

Aren't they concerned that being together... (Score:2)
by [MobyDisk \(75490\)](#)

By coming together in one place like this, all it takes is one person with measles to decimate them. I would expect them to be concerned about this, even if they do not wish to be vaccinated. I wonder if the adults are vaccinated? Like, were they vaccinated as children, yet they don't want their children vaccinated?
[1 hidden comment](#)

Re: (Score:2)
by [fkom \(3519199\)](#)

By coming together in one place like this, all it takes is one person with measles to decimate them. While deaths or severe complications from measles are easily avoidable by vaccination, most people contracting measles do not suffer any severe complications. So no, they are most probably not concerned of being decimated when they come together.

Apart from that, there are even lots of anti-vaxxers that practice the dangerous habit of "voluntarily" exposing their children to certain infections, because they are under the believe that this somehow helps their immune system to develop. (The weird misconceptio

Idiots (Score:1)
by [Paolo Agati \(4826179\)](#)

And I really meant idiots... Hope they won't cry because of a measles epidemic, like the recent in NY State

informed consent (Score:1)
by [js290 \(697670\)](#)

FWIW, my niece at 12 months exhibited symptoms of measles after her vax...
THE VAX ISSUE FOR ME IS SIMPLE: The issue is not the efficacy of vaccines but the religious obligation. Why are they mandatory when they have no undergone RCT or double blind testing like any other drug? Why "confuse" two subjects so differently? We dont because of profit. <https://t.co/1AF1Bw1V> [t.co]
— Jack Kruse (@DrJackKruse) [March 5, 2018](#) [twitter.com]
Thomas McKeown, who was *pro* vaccination, argued that in almost all cases mortality
[1 hidden comment](#)

Re: (Score:3)
by [tempo36 \(2382592\)](#)

Mortality improved for lots of reasons, "Total Food" likely not being any one of them. Things like ventilators, dialysis, antibiotics, and recognition of quarantine practices all improved mortality in the early 1900s. But just because you can save a person by spending huge amounts of money and ventilating them in the ICU doesn't mean that's the best way to manage an illness. Pretty sure those kids would prefer to have never gotten sick in the first place.

• **Measles outbreak in Washington State... (Score:2)**

by [BeCre8iv \(563502 \)](#)
Incubating now.

• **Difficult (Score:2)**

by [theendlessnow \(516149 \) *](#)
You don't want to "mandate", but at the same time you don't want to create a disease problem (especially one that could escalate).

I don't think the "homeschool" safety option is necessarily "safe".

We're probably going to have to mandate vaccinations and live with the small amount of "collateral damage" (autonomous vehicles will rack up more collateral damage than this).

• **Hurry up and colonize mars (Score:2)**

by [helthize \(990217 \)](#)
So we have somewhere to put these idgits.

• **Desert island - exactly right... (Score:3)**

by [bradley13 \(1118935 \)](#) on Saturday February 09, 2019 @11:21AM (#58094396) [Homepage](#)
Vaccinations are part of your public responsibility, like following traffic laws. If you don't want to obey traffic laws, that's easy: don't have a vehicle. If you don't want to vaccinate your kids, that's fine, don't have kids. I'm not hugely worried about compliance. An idiot can speed through town a time or three, but eventually they'll get caught. Children's immunizations should be signed off by a pediatrician, and verified at the beginning of every school year, when buying that summer pass to the swimming pool, and other occasions.

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• **Just needed someone with measles to come... (Score:2)**

by [tempo36 \(2382592 \)](#)
They're all so anti-vaccine and pro-disease, I'm sure they would have been just fine with a couple of the active measles patients coming to the hearing. That'd help things along.

• **Very good brain (Score:3)**

by [PopeRatzo \(965947 \)](#) on Saturday February 09, 2019 @11:29AM (#58094426) [Journal](#)
The smartest man in the world believes vaccines are a danger.
<http://fortune.com/2017/02/16/...> [fortune.com]

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• **Why not? (Score:2)**

by [slashmydots \(2189826 \)](#)
If ever there was a legitimate time for Trump to order a drone strike on a location it was then and there.

• **Some of this is the medical industry's fault (Score:2)**

by [joe_frisch \(1366229 \)](#)
The great majority of vaccines are extremely valuable. Unfortunately the same can't be said in general for everything provided by the medical industry, and uninformed / uneducated people may not understand the fundamental difference between say vaccines and over-prescribed pain killers.

Its easy to think that everyone should be informed, but despite our best efforts one out of ten of the population is in the bottom 10% in terms of understanding things. That is still a lot of people and we need to help them

• **Outrage. Punishment (Score:2)**

by [mamba-mamba \(445365 \)](#)
The reactions to this news piece, and to some extent even the way it is written perfectly demonstrate the dysfunctional dynamic gripping America right now. Everything is an OUTRAGE, and the solution that is immediately proposed is a PUNISHMENT. It is an OUTRAGE that these parents should not want to vaccinate their children. The parents should be PUNISHED by being exiled to a desert island or by having their children removed by CPS.

I would like to challenge you all to find some empathy in your heart and focu

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [Dunbal \(464142 \) *](#)
I'm all for vaccinating children, but forcing it on parents is wrong. Public safety has to be forced on people for their own good. Things like speed limits and lane markings actually work to cut down traffic accidents. Just letting people drive however the hell they want is dangerous. Things like how to wire your house and building codes actually work to reduce avoidable fires, building collapses, health problems, etc. Just letting people build a house however the hell they want is dangerous. Likewise vaccines. No, it's NOT up to the parents. It's public health policy. You do

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [MightyMartian \(840721 \)](#)
Children are not property. Parents a guardians, not owners.

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [mark-t \(151149 \)](#)
It stands to reason that a parent, rightfully, has a right to determine the environment in which their child is raised, but in a civilized society, that right should exist only to the extent that the there is some empirical evidence that how they are raising the child is not objectively harmful to the child nor objectively potentially harmful to that society. There are two general classifications for objecting to vaccinations: one is for medical reasons, and the other is on philosophical grounds. Vacc

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