



OFFICE OF

No. HB 3016

**THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

April 29, 2016

TIME SIGNED: 3:30pm

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SECOND SESSION OF THE
FIFTY FIFTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL NO. 3016:

This is to advise you, pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution to approve or object to legislation presented to me, I have VETOED House Bill 3016.

House Bill 3016 is an unfunded mandate requiring healthcare providers administering vaccinations to make available to patients/parents/caretakers (consumer), Appendix B of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) Pink Book (Appendix). House Bill 3016 further requires providers to give consumers the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS), outlining the risks and benefits of vaccines, and requires physicians to advise consumers of the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP).

I strongly support requiring healthcare professionals to provide consumers with the VIS and information regarding the NVICP prior to obtaining informed consent for a vaccination, as is already required by federal law. The VIS was created with the consumer in mind and is an excellent summary and overview of the benefits and risks specific to vaccinations that are presently administered.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

page 1 of 3



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However, this bill would require providers to give consumers the 34-page Appendix containing highly technical, and some irrelevant and obsolete information not related to a consumer's decision as to whether or not s/he should consent to a vaccination. More importantly, the Appendix would be generally incomprehensible to the average consumer who is not a medical professional.

The Appendix, among other things, contains discontinued vaccines, vaccine ingredients, substances used during the manufacturing process that are removed from the final product, and even foreign vaccines. Providing the Appendix to the consumer without the proper context and without adequate explanation may be confusing and intimidating, resulting in a drop in vaccination rates. Additionally, the Appendix is readily available online for consumers to view at any time at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/appdx-full-b.pdf>

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Oklahoma's vaccination rate is 90%, down from 94.1% in 2006, which places Oklahoma 4% below the national average in vaccination rates and on the cusp of dipping below 90%, which greatly increases the chances of an outbreak within our state. Recent outbreaks of preventable diseases among unvaccinated populations within the United States, particularly measles, emphasize the need for children to be vaccinated.

According to medical professionals, including the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA), Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (OKAAP), Oklahoma Osteopathic Association (OOA), Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP), Oklahoma State Health Department, and the Tulsa Health Department, House Bill 3016 will likely result in an overall decrease in immunizations for Oklahomans and their children. A further decrease in the vaccination rate would adversely affect the health of children in our state, and that risk is unacceptable.

To be clear, my veto of this bill in no way decreases the information healthcare providers are required to provide regarding vaccines, nor does this veto affect or limit the rights of Oklahomans for Vaccine Choice and other likeminded consumers to decline vaccinations for their children or themselves based upon religious, personal or medical reasons. Further, my veto of this bill does not prevent a consumer from easily accessing a copy of the Appendix from their healthcare provider, from the CDC, or viewing the Appendix via the internet prior to consenting to any vaccination. For those reasons, I have VETOED House Bill 3016.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mary Fallin

By Emily A. Hills
Date/Time 4/29/16 4:03 pm

RECEIVED
APR 28 2016
OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE
A.C. @ 4:11 pm