



# Florida Families Support Strong Vaccine Laws

## HB 917/SB 1756 would put families at risk.

### Polling reveals broad support for vaccines.

A new statewide poll of likely 2026 Florida voters shows overwhelming, bipartisan support for maintaining Florida’s school vaccine requirements. The takeaway is clear: Florida voters strongly value proven vaccine protections and support maintaining long-standing school immunization laws.

### Expanding opt-outs is unpopular and risky.

HB 917/SB 1756 would significantly expand school-entry opt-outs by allowing exemptions based on “conscience” objections for both immunizations and health exams.

- Florida already struggles with exemption clustering, where large numbers of unvaccinated children are concentrated in particular schools or communities.
- When exemptions increase, vaccination rates decline – and outbreak risk rises.
- Other states facing declining immunization rates have acted to close gaps in protection, not open new ones.

At a time when immunization coverage is slipping nationwide, this proposal moves Florida in the wrong direction.

### Parents value proven protections.

The bills would allow parents to bypass their pediatrician entirely and opt out of routine vaccines with a single click – without a valid medical reason. This approach:

- Removes healthcare professionals from the decision-making process
- Reduces opportunities for parents to receive accurate, individualized medical information

True parental choice depends on access to clear, science-based guidance – not systems that prioritize convenience over child health.

### Arkansas is a cautionary tale.

- When Arkansas added a philosophical exemption loophole in 2003–2004:
  - The number of exempted students **increased 17%** in the first year
  - Exemptions **increased 50%** by the second year
- Exemptions clustered geographically, creating pockets of vulnerability even when statewide vaccination averages appeared acceptable.
- Opening up a loophole in our vaccine laws means higher risk of outbreaks that spread beyond the exempted children.



**We urge our legislators:**  
**Stand with the majority of**  
**parents who value our right**  
**to protect our children with**  
**strong vaccine laws.**

**Please reconsider HB 917/SB 1756!**