



*Statement on Governor Brown's
Signing of Assembly Bill 499*

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October 10, 2011

The signing of Assembly Bill 499, which allows children as young as 12 years of age to decide for themselves whether to get vaccinations or take other medications to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, represents a serious erosion of parental rights in California.

Parents bear the first responsibility for their children's physical and spiritual well-being. This new law, however, bypasses parental involvement, wisdom and guidance.

Children are not mature enough to think through the consequences of complicated medical decisions. As a result of this law, children will now face these decisions without parental guidance — and likely under pressure from adults and corporate interests that have financial and other motives to promote these medications.

Rather than excluding parents, our government should be working to support and assist them in making the best decisions possible for their children, especially when serious medical and moral issues are at stake.

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