

**Resolution of the San Francisco Democratic Party  
Calling for the Elimination of the Personal Belief Exemption for Vaccinations**

**WHEREAS**, vaccinations have global, state, and local public health benefits and are an evidence-based and effective method for controlling and even eradicating preventable diseases. State laws mandate that children be immunized before attending school in all states; however, twenty-one states, including California, currently allow personal belief exemptions from those laws. More than a quarter of the schools in California have measles immunization rates that fall below the 92-94% that the Centers for Disease Control claims is necessary to maintain “herd immunity,” and recent outbreaks of the measles in California have highlighted for many Californians the necessity of vaccinating school-age children.

**WHEREAS**, Many children and adults are unable to receive vaccinations due to their own compromised immune systems, due to cancer or immune-suppressant medications, and these people’s lives are at risk when they come into contact with these diseases; and

**WHEREAS**, studies show that vaccination rates are inversely correlated with ease of obtaining an exemption - when, in 2014, California required parents to obtain a doctor’s note to opt out of vaccinating, the overall opt-out rate dipped from 3.15 percent to 2.54 percent, an indication that increasing the stringency of the personal belief exemption requirements positively impacts public health; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the San Francisco Democratic Party supports the elimination of the personal belief exemption for the vaccination of school-age children in order to benefit public health by reducing and eliminating preventable infectious diseases and to protect those who are medically unable to be vaccinated; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the San Francisco Democratic Party urges the California Democratic Party to adopt this resolution as a part of its platform at the 2015 state convention.

**Sponsors:** Alix Rosenthal, Scott Wiener, Hene Kelly, Leah Pimentel, Kelly Dwyer, Rebecca Prozan, Josh Arce, Malia Cohen, David Chiu, Zoe Dunning