



Infectious Diseases Society of America  
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# Vaccine Advocacy Toolkit Overview

Several states are considering legislation that would hamper efforts to achieve or maintain high-levels of vaccination desired for public health. While IDSA does not have the capacity to monitor state legislation, we are providing this toolkit to support IDSA members' efforts to educate their state policymakers about the importance of immunizations and to advocate against anti-vaccine proposals. If you are working on vaccine advocacy in your state and would like additional support, please contact Colin McGoodwin at [cmcgoodwin@idsociety.org](mailto:cmcgoodwin@idsociety.org).

IDSA represents over 11,000 infectious diseases physicians and scientists devoted to patient care, disease prevention, public health, education, and research in the area of infectious diseases. Our members care for patients of all ages with serious infections, including meningitis, pneumonia, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections such as those caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), and Gram-negative bacterial infections such as *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, emerging infections such as Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV), Enterovirus D68, and Ebola, and bacteria containing novel resistance mechanisms such as the New Delhi metallo-beta-lactamase (NDM) enzymes and others that make them resistant to a broad range of antibacterial drugs, including one of our most powerful classes of antibiotics, the carbapenems (carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, or CRE).



## The toolkit contains:

IDSA believes that medical contraindications should be the only basis for exempting a child from vaccination requirements. Many states already allow religious exemptions as well, and anti-vaccine advocates have already been successful in passing laws in several states that allow philosophical exemptions. These exemptions allow parents to refuse vaccinations for their child for any reason and are extremely harmful to individual and public health.



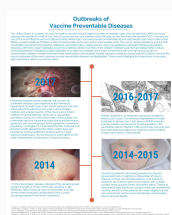
### Vaccine Advocacy Strategies

Advocacy Strategies and Opportunities document with information on how to connect with lawmakers



### Anti Vaccine Legislation Primer

An Anti-Vaccine Legislation Primer to inform IDSA membership about the kinds of bills that may be introduced



### Outbreaks of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

A Fact Sheet describing Outbreaks of Vaccine Preventable Diseases to demonstrate the dangers of low vaccination rates



### Vaccine Advocacy Talking Points

Vaccine Advocacy Talking Points to use when writing, calling, or meeting with state and local policymakers or their staff



### Vaccine Stories

Real stories from IDSA members about individuals harmed by vaccine-preventable illnesses