



SUPPORT HB1338: IMMUNIZATION DATA REGISTRY ACT

House Bill 1338: Immunization Data Registry Act sets provisions to improve the the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Registry Exchange (I-CARE), the statewide immunization registry. The Act improves I-CARE by strengthening information sharing and increasing confidentiality. The Act improves immunizations data reporting by allowing physicians and health departments to enter data into the system unless the parent opts-out of the registry.

Benefits of Immunization Registries

- I-CARE allows healthcare providers to input immunization information for children in a central database for better tracking of an individual child's immunization schedule
- Physician offices utilizing I-CARE report that the registry has created ease and efficiency in administering vaccines and tracking patients' immunization histories
- The Illinois immunization registry also reduces administrative burden and costs for clinical staff through automated generation of necessary forms such as the school physical form and ensures immunization status is effectively communicated between physician offices and school nursing staff
- Over 600 pediatricians in 60 physician offices have received in-depth I-CARE training from ICAAP
- Registries are especially significant in tracking immunization status for mobile populations or in the event of a health crisis as witnessed during Hurricane Katrina

Opt-Out Process

- Illinois is one of only nine states to have an opt-in immunization registry
- An opt-in registry places an administrative burden requiring physician offices to track down individual patients to obtain signed consent form.
- Opt-in registries have also been shown to be less cost effective than their opt-out counterparts in cost per patient to obtain consent.
- An opt-out registry would reduce the burden of paperwork for provider offices and encourage increased use of the registry by physicians.
- Studies demonstrate an increase in vaccination rates with the use of effective state immunization registries. The change to an opt-out registry will help Illinois increase its immunization rate from 69% for children three and under to the goal of 80% as recommended by US Department of Health and Human Services
- The Illinois Department of Public Health will create an informational form on I-CARE including the option to opt-out of the registry. The form will be distributed to families at least once during the time of an immunization visit along with the Vaccine Information Statement.
- HB1338 will allow I-CARE to serve as a robust immunization registry ensuring accurate record keeping of vaccine history and reduction in under/over immunization of Illinois children.

Supported by:

- Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
- Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition