

SOUTH  DAKOTA  
STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
*Values. Ethics. Advocacy.*

February 6, 2020

**Statement on HB 1235, which would eliminate immunization requirements for school entry –  
attributable to Robert J. Summerer, DO, SDSMA president:**

At a time when vaccine-preventable diseases have been reemerging and endangering the public health, this anti-vaccine bill is very troubling. To protect our communities' health, immunization requirements are vital. Removing these requirements as a matter of convenience or misinformation brings a huge risk to people who cannot be vaccinated: young children, cancer patients and other immunosuppressed patients. This proposed legislation threatens to erase years and years of progress and will lead to the return of nearly-eliminated and preventable diseases. These preventable diseases can result in illness, disability and death.