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## **Position Statement on Personal Belief Exemptions in California**

(Adopted June 21, 2011)

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California is one of only 20 states that allows for broad use of Personal Belief Exemption (PBEs). The California Immunization Coalition supports the right of parents to make informed choices about immunizations for their children. However, parents are faced with misinformation about immunizations and the number of parents exempting their children from school immunization requirements has increased significantly, leaving more children at risk for catching and spreading vaccine-preventable diseases.

To protect California's children, families, and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases, the California Immunization Coalition supports efforts to strengthen educational efforts and consider changes to our PBE process to promote more informed decision-making.

CIC joins Public Health leaders, policymakers, healthcare providers, and concerned parents in calling for a review of the PBE process in partnership with childcare programs and schools. Our goal is to refine the system to support more informed decision-making when parents are considering an exemption.