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Sessional Paper No. P-122

Response Tabled OCT 25 2017

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P-122 Petition relating to Immunization of School Pupils Act (Sessional Paper No. 122)  
(Tabled by MPP Yurek, May 30, 2017)

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**Response:**

Amendments to the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA) were passed on May 30, 2017 under Schedule 2 of Bill 87, the *Protecting Patients Act, 2017*. One key amendment requires parents to complete an immunization education session if they intend to request a non-medical vaccine exemption. The intention of the amendment is to support parents in making an informed decision for their children's health care. This amendment came into effect on September 01, 2017.

The provision of an immunization education session does not constitute treatment under the *Health Care Consent Act, 1996*.

Parents can still choose to submit a request for a non-medical vaccine exemption for their children after completing the immunization education session.

Vaccines are tested to make sure they are safe and effective. Like any medication, vaccines, can cause side effects. The most common side effects are mild pain, swelling and redness where the injection was given. Serious adverse events from the vaccines are rare.

Health Canada's Biologics and Genetic Therapies Directorate is the Canadian regulatory authority accountable for assessing the safety, efficacy and quality of all vaccines authorized and distributed for use in Canada. In Canada, vaccine manufacturers are legally obligated to collect and report data on adverse events. In Ontario, health care providers are required to report potential vaccine adverse reactions to their local medical officer of health in accordance with requirements under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. This information is monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis by Public Health Ontario and reported to the Public Health Agency of Canada to support national vaccine safety surveillance. Anyone who experiences a suspected adverse event following immunization should report this information to their local public health unit. A list of public health units in Ontario is available at [www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/common/system/services/phu/locations.aspx)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Hoskins", written over a horizontal line.

Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins