

Advocacy Letter

Vickie Rogers

Old Dominion University

Delegate Jeff Campbell

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June 14, 2015

Dear Delegate Campbell,

My name is Vickie Rogers and I am a Registered Nurse. I reside in Wythe County, Virginia. I am contacting you concerning Bill SB 1083. This bill would require meningococcal vaccinations to be added to the recommended immunizations for school aged children.

Meningitis is a contagious illness that affects the covering of the brain and spinal cord. There are approximately 1000-1200 cases of meningitis every year. Even with treatment, the effects of meningitis can be death, loss of arms or legs, nervous system problems, deafness, and seizures or strokes ("Meningococcal VIS," 2011). We can protect the health of our children and community by adding the meningococcal vaccine to the recommended childhood immunizations.

I am aware there are those that oppose immunization and are concerned about their safety (ProCon.org website, 2015). Immunizations are recommended to ensure the well-being and safety of society. Immunizations have effectively reduced or eliminated many childhood diseases such as smallpox, polio, and measles. A large number of hospitalizations, illnesses, disabilities, and deaths are prevented each year due to the required immunizations children receive (Whitney, Zhou, Singleton, & Schuchat, 2014). Immunization does not only provide protection for the individual but also for everyone that may come in contact with them

("Vaccinations," 2014). A recent example of how easily disease can be spread is the measles outbreak linked to a visitor to Disney World. Over 173 cases of measles were reported and experts cited under immunization, or lack of immunization, as being responsible for the outbreak (Zipprich et al., 2015).

Vaccines are vigorously tested prior to approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and continue to be monitored when in use for any possible side effects ("Vaccine Safety," 2011). The safety of vaccinations has been proven by the large number of administrations and the small number of complications (Epling, Savoy, Temte, Schoof, & Campos-Outcalt, 2014). The risk of being vaccinated far outweighs the risk of complications from contracting the disease.

I ask that you support Bill SB 1083. Your support will ensure the safety and well-being of the public by ensuring children are vaccinated against a communicable disease that is potentially fatal or may have a deleterious effect on their future well-being. It will also have a positive effect on long term health care expenditure for ongoing treatment due to complications or providing resources to contain an outbreak. Lastly, consider the words of Ben Franklin, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Please feel free to contact me should you have any additional questions.

Respectfully yours,

Vickie L. Rogers RNC

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Wytheville, VA 24382

References

- Epling, J. W., Savoy, M. L., Temte, J. L., Schoof, B. K., & Campos-Outcalt, D. (2014, December). When vaccine misconceptions jeopardize public health [article]. *Journal of Family Practice*, 63(12), E1-E7. Retrieved from <http://www.jfponline.com/>
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- Zipprich, J., Winter, K., Hacker, J., Xia, D., Watt, J., & Harriman, K. (2015, February 20). Measles outbreak - California, December 2014-February 2015 [article]. *MMWR: Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Report*, 64(6), 153-154. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/about.html>

ODU Honor code

“I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I am aware that as a member of the academic community it is responsibility to turn in all suspected violators of the Honor Code. I will report to a hearing if summoned.”

Name: __Vickie Rogers_____

Signature: *Vickie Rogers*_____

Date: 6-24-2015_____

N492: Advocacy Assignment Grade Rubric

Grading Criteria	Comments	Points
<p>Introduction Captures the reader’s attention; clarifies the importance of the bill and issue for population, uses a thesis statement to state the author’s position. [10 points]</p>		
<p>Analysis of opposing arguments Arguments against the writer’s position are addressed and explanations are given as to why the opposing argument is not as compelling, relevant or valid as the writer’s argument. Citation should be used as rationale for con position. [20 points]</p>		
<p>Argument and Support for your position Writer provides a compelling, evidence-based case for his/her position. Includes issue analysis and a thorough explanation of why the reasons selected are the most important and relevant to issue. Minimum requirements: Include at least two reasons for supporting the issue with rationale for each. Citations should be used as rationale for pro position. [30 points]</p>		
<p>Conclusion Arguments of the position are synthesized into a conclusion to explain how the evidence provided necessitates a specific course of action. [10 points]</p>		
<p>Use of Source Material Writer has used at least three (3) sources to support the pro and con arguments; sources are cited in text and reference page per APA style. [10 points]</p>		
<p>Organization Adheres to business letter format; is interesting, easy to read and flows from one idea to the next. [10 points]</p>		
<p>Title Page, Spelling, Grammar, Honor Code Correct title page format, spelling, and grammar. Adheres to 2 page limit (except title, reference, honor code and rubric pages). [10 points]</p>		
<p>Final Grade: (100 points)</p>		