

For Immediate Release March 9, 2023

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JCRAR Suspends DHS Rule Overstepping Its Authority

Madison, WI – Today, the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR) suspended portions of Wisconsin Administrative Code Department of Health Services (DHS) 144, a <u>rule</u> that would have added several mandatory vaccinations to the childhood immunization schedule. State Sen. Duey Stroebel (R – Cedarburg) issued the following statement:

"JCRAR voted to block another executive branch attempt to overstep its authority. DHS tried adding mandatory vaccines for meningitis and chickenpox to the litany of existing vaccination requirements under the childhood immunization schedule. JCRAR's action to suspend DHS 144 is not a debate over the efficacy of vaccines, but rather a check on agency rule-making authority. This rule is now unenforceable until at least April 2024."

"COVID-19 made it abundantly clear that unelected bureaucrats should not have authority to mandate vaccination - it is up to an individual and their family to make that decision. The Legislature should continue to utilize its power to act as a check and balance on the executive branch. JCRAR's action today returns decision-making back to the individual and family."

Senator Stroebel represents the 20th Senate District which includes parts of Ozaukee, Washington, Fond du Lac, Calumet and Sheboygan Counties.

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