**From:** Initiative Citoyenne

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2015 11:48 AM

**To:** senator.lara@senate.ca.gov

**Subject:** SB277 on Vaccination: Important Message from Belgium

Dear Senator Lara,

We here in Belgium have been attentively watching the news of the now famous SB277 draft law regarding vaccination and as members of an independent, voluntary health watchdog supported by a long list of Belgian doctors, we are disappointed to see that passionate and emotional arguments seem unfortunately to be outweighing a clear-headed and down-to-earth analysis of the facts.  This is why we hope that you will take the time to read the (duly referenced) contents of the attached document “[***Vaccine Benefit/Risk Ratio: Time for Patients to Choose Between Beliefs and Knowledge***](http://ddata.over-blog.com/xxxyyy/3/27/09/71/2012-2013/Juin-2013/IC-s-Reply-LA-Times-English-13-11-13-_1_.pdf)*”*.  This document was actually the message we sent to the LA Times in response to an extremely one-sided, unbalanced and biased article by journalist Susan Rohwer, published on the 5th of November 2013.  Its title: “[*Anti-Vaccination Movement: It’s Time for Doctors to Take a Stand*](http://www.latimes.com/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-vaccines-doctors-20131105-story.html)”.  We feel that the basics of the arguments put forward by each side can be found in these two opposing articles. Lastly, since everyone should really make an *informed*decision on this matter, we feel it is important to remind you of two things: first of all, here is [a quote by the former Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious new England Journal of Medicine, Dr. Marcia Angell](http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2009/jan/15/drug-companies-doctorsa-story-of-corruption/), who surely was not speaking lightly, nor did she swear that this could never apply to vaccinations:

“It is simply no longer possible to believe much of the clinical research that is published, or to rely on the judgment of trusted physicians or authoritative medical guidelines. I take no pleasure in this conclusion, which I reached slowly and reluctantly over my two decades as an editor of The New England Journal of Medicine.”

Secondly, please listen to the following recording of a CBS interview of Dr. Bernadine Healy, former head of the *NIH*, speaking in 2008 in the presence of Sheryl Atkinson (words which seemed so important to us that we had them translated and sub-titled in French for our fellow French-speaking Belgians!).

Click here: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymhVI\_SQwU0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymhVI_SQwU0)

We request therefore that before the final vote on this draft law, you listen to this interview and keep her words in your mind when you consider whether under such blurred conditions in which there are so many gaps in our knowledge, you would want to be one of the babies or future babies in California who will be subjected to mandatory vaccination.

Thank you on behalf of those babies and thank you for reading our message, in the name of all children and of public health in general.

Yours sincerely,

Marie-Rose Cavalier, Sophie Meulemans and Muriel Desclée

On behalf of the independent Belgian health watchdog, *Initiative Citoyenne*