



**Texans for Accountable Government**

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From: Chuck Young, Treasurer & Founder, TAG

Subject: Statewide Immunization Tracking

Senators,

In recent times we have heard a mounting chorus of opposition to government intrusions into the bodies of Americans, and especially Texans. The now notorious HPV vaccine debacle [1] certainly needs no elaboration for most politically aware observers. Perhaps less familiar to some are the difficulties faced by the State of New York in forcing its own employees - nurses no less - to submit to mandatory H1N1 vaccination [2].

Fewer still are aware that the courts have recently come down on the side of patient privacy rights here in Texas. The TX Dept. of State Health Services agreed last December to destroy as many as 5 million blood samples obtained from children without parental consent [3]. This was the result of a lawsuit filed in the U.S. District Court in San Antonio by the Texas Civil Rights Project. We will only note in passing the irony of a Federal Court protecting the privacy of Texans from our own State Government, given noises made this past year by prominent conservative Texas politicians concerning State's rights.

Perhaps the most interesting dimension to this issue is the correlation between vaccine registration and gun registration. The metaphor is not as tortured as it first appears. Gun control advocates routinely approach that issue as a "public health problem" [4]. Gun registration has led to gun confiscation from Australia to Germany [5]. Is it unjustified to postulate that the purpose of universal immunization tracking is the future forcible vaccination or quarantine of those not in "compliance" with this apparent "public health mandate"?

While Federal law does provide for quarantines in the event of serious outbreaks of disease, TAG's best research has shown that forced immunization would only be possible at the State level. We are determined that such action shall never occur; we are confident that the political will exists in the people of Texas to make certain that it never does.

[1] <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/18575675/>

[2] <http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=852028>

[3] <http://www.texascivilrightsproject.org/?p=1822>

[4] [http://www.nraila.org/media/misc/fables.html#FABLE IX:](http://www.nraila.org/media/misc/fables.html#FABLE IX)

[5] <http://www.nraila.org/Issues/FactSheets/Read.aspx?ID=28>