

National Vaccine Advisory Commission Meeting – June 16, 2021
NVIC Public Comment
Theresa Wrangham, Executive Director

My name is Theresa Wrangham and I am the Executive Director for the National Vaccine Information Center. Our co-founders are parents of vaccine injured children and worked with Congress to draft and pass the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 that created this committee.

The roots of that law are bound in hesitance and vaccine injury and primary goals for our cofounders in participating in the 1986 Act's creation was that risk informing would be required for those deciding to vaccinate, ongoing research on vaccine injuries would inform the vaccine injury table and expedite no fault vaccine injury awards, and that Americans would be assured that when they chose to vaccinate they would be choosing from the safest vaccines with the least risk for injury.

NVIC supports efforts to assure access to vaccines, and looks at vaccination through the lens of the informed consent ethic, which has guided the ethical practice of modern medicine since World War II. It is every individual's and parent's right to make voluntary, informed vaccine decisions without threat, coercion and sanction. No one should be treated differently in our communities, schools or the workplace for their vaccination status. Doing so fosters inequity and discrimination throws those who will be injured by vaccines under the bus as acceptable collateral damage and create a second class of citizens.

Our board members, founders and supporters have a history and continue to serve on FACA committees such as NVAC and ACCV. Yet, the concept widely known in the disability community as "nothing about us without us" is not currently integrated in NVAC's efforts to address hesitancy. The continued strategizing, incentivizing, coercion and mandate tactics being put into place to increase vaccine uptake, particularly relating to COVID-19 vaccines, are unlikely to be successful with the vaccine hesitant given the lack representation from the community you seek to convince.

NVAC is well aware that there are legitimate privacy, safety and informed consent concerns held by the vaccine hesitant. Further, it is unethical to coerce their compliance through mandates and not engage with this community and work resolve these legitimate concerns, while respecting informed consent rights. The hesitant and injured that NVIC has represented for almost 40 years are increasing. We again strongly encourage the NVAC to address inequities and integrate informed consent protections and inclusion of this population in policy and recommendation efforts undertaken.

We appreciate that the opportunity provide a public comment continues, and note that it is not a substitute for true engagement to address these concerns.