



What would you think about government officials entering your child's school at any time, meeting privately with your child, and accessing your child's medical information - all without you being informed or involved?

Would you call that common sense?

The Shapiro administration apparently does. **Today, I'm asking you to use your voice to push back while there's still time...**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Pennsylvanians took significant steps to rein in the Governor's emergency powers. We became the first state in the nation to curb a governor's emergency authority through a constitutional amendment approved by voters. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court also ruled in 2021 that the governor lacked authority to impose a statewide school mask mandate.

Now, just five years later, Gov. Josh Shapiro's Pennsylvania Department of Health (PDOH) is proposing regulations that would grant the government significantly broader authority than it exercised during COVID. Daily Wire reporter (and former Bucks County mom) Meg Brock headlined her story about these proposed regulations this way:

“Josh Shapiro Eyes New Powers That Make COVID Restrictions
Look Like a Warning Shot.”

PDOH has proposed more than 500 pages of new health regulations that would significantly expand the department's authority. Among the most troubling provisions are those affecting children and schools.

Under the proposed regulations, the Department would require all schools to grant health officials unobstructed, private access to students “for the purpose of contact tracing and partner services.” No other state in the region has this expanded authority codified in regulations governing communicable diseases, and the PDOH claims this “will place Pennsylvania ahead of other states in the region.”

What are “partner services”? The regulations describe them as a “broad array of services,” including sexually transmitted disease services, vaccinations, substance use treatment, social support, housing assistance, legal services, mental health services, and **even abortions**.

Think about that.

Government officials could have “unobstructed and in private” conversations with your child on these sensitive topics, and without parental involvement.

These proposed regulations also expand government access to health information. They would allow the state “to mandate a statewide emergency department syndromic surveillance reporting system.” While participation in the PDOH's immunization information system with personal vaccine data was previously voluntary, it would become mandatory for health care practitioners and facilities.

For more details about what these proposed regulations would actually do, check out our fact-check blog post by clicking [here](#).

These are not minor changes. They raise serious concerns about parental rights and medical privacy.

The Shapiro administration claims these proposed regulations are intended to protect public health. While protecting public health is a legitimate responsibility of government, good intentions do not give government unlimited authority.

Gov. Shapiro should be reminded of the lesson from Pennsylvania's native son, Jimmy Stewart, who once said, **"Never treat your audience as customers, always as partners."**

That distinction matters in Pennsylvania politics. A government that views its citizens as partners works with them and respects their role. It recognizes that the government exists to serve the people, not the other way around.

Parents are not obstacles for government officials to work around.

Yet the Shapiro administration's proposed regulations raise that concern. If government health officials can enter schools, privately interact with children, and have access to sensitive medical information, all without appropriate parental involvement, parents aren't being treated as partners but as potential obstacles.

Unfortunately, **Gov. Josh Shapiro is demonstrating that he favors government power over citizen partnership.**

The administration may sincerely believe that giving the PDOH greater authority over children, schools, and families will help achieve its public health goals.

But government overreach doesn't become common sense simply because government officials believe it is.

These regulations are still in proposal form and are not yet in effect. Pennsylvanians still have an opportunity to speak up (see the P.S. below to take action) and tell the Shapiro administration that there are boundaries government should not cross.

Pennsylvania shouldn't become Pottersville (since I mentioned Jimmy Stewart, I have to reference the all-time classic *It's a Wonderful Life*).

Parents should be part of the solution, not treated like they're part of the problem.

Simply put: Don't mess with our kids. Be sure to read the P.S. below to take action.

Sincerely,



Michael Geer
President & CEO
Pennsylvania Family Council

P.S. These troubling regulations are still just a proposal, and we are currently in what is called the "public comment period". I **encourage you to read more about these regulations, and then use our Citizen Action Center to [make your voice and your concerns known](#) before the September 21st deadline.**

[Click HERE to Take Action](#)

P.P.S. As I mentioned before, Meg Brock's Daily Wire story exposes the full breadth of these dangerous regulations. [Click here to read the full piece.](#)

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