

19 July 2018

RE: Conflict of Interest Declarations

To: Dr. Kathy Lofy, Chair, DOH Vaccine Advisory Committee

Given that the topic of today's meeting concerns vaccine-hesitancy, *Informed Choice WA* respectfully requests that committee members declare any financial or other incentive, disincentive, award, or reward they receive—for themselves personally or the offices or businesses with which they work—for maintaining or raising vaccination quotas in their line of work or professional associations.

VAC has adopted the following Conflict of Interest Policy:

Decisions made by committee members should always be based solely on the best interest of the department and the people of Washington State. **Decisions should not be influenced by personal financial interest or by other extraneous considerations.** Any affiliation with an organization having fundamental goals that conflict with the department and VAC mission should be avoided. **Any current, previous (within two years), or future potential conflict of interest should be disclosed at the beginning of each VAC meeting.**

**A potential conflict of interest exists when a committee member has a relationship or engages in any activity, or has any personal financial interest which might impair his/her independence or judgment or inappropriately influence his/her decisions or actions concerning VAC matters.**

A potential conflict of interest exists and should be disclosed if the committee member:

- **Has a relationship with an entity that benefits financially from the sale of vaccines,** such as a consultancy, serving on a speakers bureau, receiving honoraria, research and/or travel support.
- Owns a material financial interest in any business that provides or seeks to provide goods or services to the department.
- Serves as an officer or participates on the board or committees of other related professional societies that receive direct financial benefit from the sale of vaccines.
- **Has an affiliation with an organization that has a financial interest in VAC recommendations.**
- Has an affiliation with an organization that has a competing activity.

Each committee member has a high duty and obligation to disclose to the entire committee any potential conflict of interest and to abstain from any decision where a significant conflict of interest exists. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the entire committee to determine what, if any, limitations on activities with regard to the committee member's conflict are required to protect the VAC.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/PublicHealthSystemResourcesandServices/Immunization/VaccineAdvisoryCommitteeVAC/MembershipPolicy/ConflictofInterestPolicy>: