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Hesitation toward vaccines in the Philippines may have originated from the *dengvaxia* controversy last 2017. In September 2018, DOH Undersecretary Enrique Domingo told reporters that 130 vaccinated children had died (Arkin, 2019). This enraged and frightened the parents of some 830,000 schoolchildren who had already received one or more Dengvaxia shots. Vaccine does have mild to severe side effects and it is human’s right to have a choice whether they should let a foreign substance that could possibly kill them, however, vaccination is one of the most successful public health interventions in reducing disease spread, preventing complications and even deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases. Mandatory vaccination, especially now that we have COVID-19, can be ethically justified if the threat to public health is grave (Savulescu, 2020).

There is a large literature on the justification for the use of coercion in public health and infectious disease in particular. Mandatory vaccination is typically justified on Millian grounds: harm to others. First, the concern that testing has been rushed and the vaccine may not be safe or effective is reasonable. There are individuals, especially the elderly, which are illiterate about vaccines. The Philippines would still have to be educated about what vaccines do and how it works. Moreover, to be maximally effective, particularly in protecting the most vulnerable in the population, vaccination would need to achieve herd immunity and until then the state shouldn’t consider mandatory vaccination. Second, vaccines are better than the other alternatives in times of worldwide emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a position that we don’t need mandatory vaccination because people are self-interested or altruistic enough to come forward for vaccination. We can reach herd immunity without mandatory vaccination (Savulescu, 2020). However, reaching herd immunity is not good enough, how fast we reach herd immunity is also important. In a pandemic, time is lives. And third, According to John Stuart Mill, the sole ground for the use of state coercion (and restriction of liberty) is when one individual risks harming others. Given the mounting number of deaths nationally and globally, and the apparent failure of many countries to contain the pandemic without severely damaging or problematic lockdowns and other measures, there have been calls to make a vaccine, if it were approved, mandatory (Savulescu, 2020).

Vaccine mimic the virus or bacteria that causes disease and triggers the body’s creation of antibodies. These antibodies will provide protection once a person is infected with the actual disease-causing virus or bacteria (Department of Health). To reiterate, vaccination is widely recognized as one of the most cost-effective medical interventions that has historically reduced and even eradicated the incidence of many preventable infectious diseases protecting millions of people (Giannouchos, et, al., 2021). The alarming rate of deaths worldwide because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of satisfying results of other alternatives to contain the pandemic should be enough as a factor to consider to mandate a compulsory vaccination within a state/nation.

References:

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Argumentative Essay Structure (your guide):

1. **Introductory paragraph**. The first paragraph of your essay should outline the topic, provide background information necessary to understand your argument, outline the evidence you will present and states your thesis.
2. **The thesis statement**. This is part of your first paragraph. It is a concise, one-sentence summary of your main point and claim.
3. **Body paragraphs**. A typical argumentative essay comprises three or more paragraphs that explain the reasons why you support your thesis. Each body paragraph should cover a different idea or piece of evidence and contain a **topic sentence** that clearly and concisely explains why the reader should agree with your position. Body paragraphs are where you back up your claims with **examples**, **research**, **statistics**, **studies**, and **text citations**. Address opposing points of view and disprove them or explain why you disagree with them. Presenting facts and considering a topic from every angle adds credibility and will help you gain a reader’s trust.
4. **Conclusion**. One paragraph that restates your thesis and summarizes all of the arguments made in your body paragraphs. Rather than introducing new facts or more arguments, a good conclusion will appeal to a reader’s emotions. In some cases, writers will use a personal anecdote explaining how the topic personally affects them.