

NATIONAL

Donald Trump: Job Approval

43% Approve
54% Disapprove

Data provided by Civiqs

30%
0%
-30%

Net -11%

Aug 31, 2018
Aug 27, 2019

NATIONAL

Impeachment

45% Support
48% Oppose

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Border Wall With

44% Support
52% Oppose

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“We need to reach out to the parents who have been misled,” says the doctor facing death threats (/stories/2019/8/29/1882158/--We-need-to-reach-out-to-the-parents-who-have-been-misled-says-the-doctor-facing-death-threats)

Lincoln green (/user/Lincoln%20green)

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Thursday August 29, 2019 · 9:17 AM EDT

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Dr. Richard Pan at a Democratic political rally in 2010. He was elected to the California State Assembly that year, and now serves in the California Senate. Pan is also a practicing pediatrician.

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One of my biggest heroes is Maurice Hilleman (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maurice_Hilleman) (1919–2005), an “intense, irascible but modest (<https://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/07/health/maurice-hilleman-mmr-vaccines-forgotten-hero.html>)” man who arguably saved more lives than any other person in history. Hilleman developed vaccines against measles, mumps, hepatitis A and B, chickenpox, meningitis and other diseases, and his vaccines are routinely recommended in current schedules. His work has saved many millions of lives worldwide — I’ve seen estimates of as many as eight million lives saved *per year* — and it has also prevented deafness, blindness and other disabilities among millions more.

It’s not enough to develop the vaccines, though; we also have to use them. And today’s Guardian has a piece “The California senator fighting for the strictest vaccination laws in the US (<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/aug/28/richard-pan-california-vaccines-strictest-law>)” by Vivian Ho that describes some of the challenges in encouraging people to do just that. Ho interviews Richard Pan, the son of immigrants from Taiwan. Pan went to medical school, became a pediatrician in California, and eventually ran for State Assembly in 2010 and won; he now serves in the California Senate. Pan says, “I wanted to run for office and solve some problems. I don’t think I was ever thinking about passing a vaccine bill while I was campaigning.” However, after the Disneyland measles outbreak in 2015, (<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2015/1/27/1360484/-Measles-outbreak-reaches-Bay-Area-30-babies-now-under-isolation>) Pan sponsored a bill to remove personal belief exemptions from vaccinations for children entering public schools, exemptions that were being abused so much that many public schools no longer had herd immunity (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herd_immunity).

The response from antivaxxers was “swift and terrifying”, Ho writes. Pan’s private practice was harassed by phone calls, as was his wife’s. He received death threats. He says he is harassed on social media nearly every day. And a week ago, Pan was assaulted on a Sacramento street by an antivax conspiracy theorist who livestreamed the attack (<https://beta.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/08/22/yeah-i-pushed-you-anti-vaxxer-cited-assaulting-lawmaker-while-live-streaming-facebook/>). (The attacker was later cited by police for misdemeanor battery.)

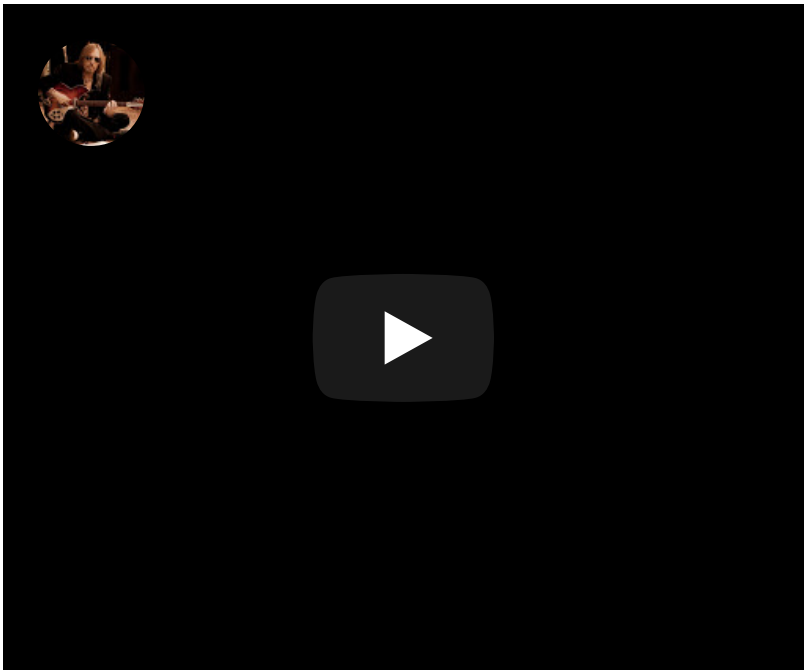
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out-to-the-parents-who-have-been-misled-says-the-doctor-facing-death-
Pan knows that he can't convince diehard antivaxxers
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At 56, Phoebe Cates And Her Partner Are Still Together

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Her Daughter Came Home Hungry, Then She Found Out The Teacher Messed With Her Food

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40 New 2019 Cars That Come with a Manual Transmission

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