Proposed California ballot initiative ignores scientific consensus on GMOs, vaccine safety

A proposed ballot initiative takes Golden State wackiness to the next level.

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This fall, Californians may have the opportunity to vote on a catch-all ballot initiative that would ban genetically modified organisms and get rid of school vaccination requirements. But that's not all. The so-called <u>California Clean Environment Initiative</u> would also prohibit the use of 300 substances, including certain vaccine ingredients and chemicals used in water treatment—chlorine and fluoride.

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This long-shot initiative was introduced by Cheriel Jensen, a retired urban planner....

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Jensen is a resident of the affluent Santa Clara County town of Saratoga and has a history of environmental activism. In 2015, she sued Santa Clara County to stop it from spraying pesticides to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne West Nile Virus. (A judge dismissed the suit.)...Aspects of Jensen's latest effort run counter to the scientific consensus. Public health authorities worldwide agree on the importance of vaccination to curb deadly outbreaks and protect the most vulnerable people. There's overwhelming evidence that vaccines do not cause autism and that they are safe for the vast majority of children and adults. Numerous scientific societies, including the <u>American Association for the</u> <u>Advancement of Science</u> and the <u>American Medical Association</u>, have issued statements affirming that genetically modified foods are safe to consume.

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