



February 19, 2013

RE: Written Testimony for Senate Bill 132

Doernbecher Children's
Hospital

Pediatric Residency
Program

Tanvi Hathiwala, MD

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a Pediatric Resident at OHSU's Doernbecher Children's Hospital. I am submitting written testimony **SUPPORTING Senate Bill 132**. If successful, SB 321 will require parents who request a non-medical exemption from immunization requirements to either complete an online educational video or obtain a signed form from their health care provider.

In my clinic I have often come across parents who refuse vaccinations. I spend a large amount of the precious visit time attempting to understand the reasons behind their refusal to obtain vaccinations. I am often struck by the vast amount of misinformation that families receive about vaccines. I have had families tell me that eating organic will provide their children with the same amount of immunity as vaccination. I have had other families refuse vaccines for concerns of autism or mercury poisoning and yet others refuse out of concern for vaccines giving their child the infection that we are trying to prevent. All of these claims are unfounded and based on the vast amount of misinformation available regarding vaccination.

In January 2013, I was rotating with the infectious disease service and saw a child in clinic with measles. Shortly after that, two other unvaccinated children in Marion County developed measles. The children had not received vaccinations because their mother was concerned that vaccines led to insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, an entirely false belief.

These experiences only serve to show the great need for improved education prior to vaccine refusal. I have found that with adequate teaching and with appropriate resources, I have been able to convince some patient's parents to allow their children to receive vaccinations. I believe that the passage of senate bill 132 would allow for appropriate education and informed decision making with regards to vaccinations.

Thank you for allowing me to contribute my perspective.

Respectfully,

Tanvi Hathiwala, MD