



Testimony in Support of SB 132 A

June 12, 2013

House Rules Committee

Jean Donovan, RN, PhD

Chair Garrett and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association in support of Senate Bill 132 A.

My name is Jean Donovan and I am a nurse and a member of the Oregon Nurses Association's Cabinet on Health Policy.

ONA, and nurses throughout the state, support wellness promotion and disease prevention. This is a core tenant of ONA's Health Policy Platform. Policies that prevent disease not only keep people well, but also help reduce the costs of caring for Oregonians.

Senate Bill 132 A takes a reasonable step to prevent disease by ensuring that parents who choose not to have their children vaccinated against preventable diseases have access to unbiased and medically accurate information about immunizations, vaccine-preventable diseases, and herd-immunity.

In this day, when so much information is available online, it can be difficult for parents to determine which information is medically accurate and which is inaccurate. This bill ensures that parents have accurate information when making an important choice about their child's health care.

As nurses, we support policies that help our patients make informed decisions about their health care, and Senate Bill 132 A does just that. It's our hope that when presented with accurate information about the risks and benefits of vaccination, more parents will chose to vaccinate their children, protecting not just their children, but their classmates, neighbors, and community from preventable and potentially serious diseases.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 132 A.