



Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
February 19, 2013  
Re: Senate bill 132

Chair Monnes Anderson, Members of the Committee:

My name is Anne Stone. I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Pediatric Society. I am representing Oregonians for Healthy Children, a coalition of organizations and individuals concerned with the increased immunization exemption rates in conjunction with increased incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases in Oregon. Our coalition members range from school and child care professionals, the medical community and organizations representing both children and seniors. I am here in support of SB 132, providing immunization education so parents can make an informed decision when they consider exempting their child from school immunization requirements.

Current law requires children in child care and school to submit a form verifying they have received required vaccines, a form signed by a medical professional who has the authority to administer vaccines. Some children exempt out of these immunization requirements for medical reasons. For these medically fragile children, they submit a form signed by a medical professional. The third category is for those who choose to exempt out of these school and child care requirements due to their personal beliefs. Under current law, this exemption does not require a signature from a medical provider, just the signature of a parent.

SB 132 brings non-medical exemptions in line with other document requirements in this section of the statute. Under SB 132, parents who choose not to vaccinate their children will receive medically-based information about immunizations and vaccine-preventable diseases. They will submit a form stating their exemption, as they do currently, and will accompany that form with either a signed document from a health care practitioner stating the parent has received information about the risks and benefits associated with immunization or a certificate of completion of an educational module provided by OHA. Most parents seek information online about vaccines; information that is often inaccurate and incomplete. This legislation will ensure parents can get credible, medically-based information about immunizations and vaccine-preventable diseases.

SB 132 also clarifies current language under ORS 433. It replaces the current language referencing this type of exemption as "religious" to "non-medical." This change is to more accurately describe the various reasons a parent may choose this exemption, which may be wider than religious, rather any personal belief. This language change in no way limits a parent's ability to exempt or take away religious freedoms.

We offer dash 1 amendments to the introduced bill. This amendment accomplishes two things. First, it pushes the implementation date from January to March 2014. February is the month in which schools require the proof of immunization or exemption forms to be turned in. By pushing this out, it allows the agency more time for implementation and for parents to adjust to new requirements. It also changes the signatory to a health care practitioner, someone for whom within their professional education can provide medically accurate information on immunization. We believe these changes make the bill stronger.

Thank you, I welcome any questions.

## ORGANIZATION SUPPORTERS

AARP

Autism Science Foundation

Bay Clinic

Behind the Smile Dentistry for Children

Child and Family Health Foundation

Childhood Health Associates of Salem

Children's Health Foundation

Every Woman's Health

Edward Jenner Society for Vaccines

FamilyCare CCO

Healthy Kids Learn Better

Hillsboro Pediatric Clinic, LLC

Immunization Action Coalition

Lane Community College Health Clinic

Metropolitan Medical Foundation of Oregon

Moms Who Vax

National Meningitis Association, Inc.

North Bend Medical Center Pediatrics

Northwest Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine

One Voice for Child Care

Oregon AFSCME Council 75

Oregon Health & Science University

Oregon Health Care Association

Oregon Public Health Association

Oregon Medical Association

Oregon Nurses Association

Oregon School Employees Association

Pediatric Specialists of Pendleton

PKIDS

Pediatric Associates of the Northwest

Providence Health and Services

Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oregon

Trillium Community Health Plan - CCO

Vaccine Education Center  The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

We have a sign-on list of over 80 Individuals & Medical Professionals around Oregon in support of SB132 Immunization Education.