



April 30, 2013

From the Desk of
Senator
Steiner Hayward

Dear Oregon Senators:

As private practice pediatricians, leaders at the Oregon Pediatric Society and members of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we represent more than 400 Oregon pediatricians and child health providers. We join together in asking your diligence in helping to improve the health of Oregon's children.

Oregon has the dishonor of having the **highest** rate of non-medical vaccine exemptions for children in kindergarten.

Senate Bill 132 seeks to update the current statute and rule language to improve immunization rates.

Simply, Senate Bill 132, with -4 amendments:

- Updates opt-out language and preserves parents' rights to opt-out. The update is that parents can now opt out for **any reason** (including religious, philosophical, personal, etc.), and
- Promotes informed decision-making by **helping parents learn** about the risks of vaccines and the risks of opting out of any or all immunizations, by either requiring a physician's signature or verification that the parent watched a simple online educational video.

Why Oregon and why now? We are fortunate that the state of Washington has gone before us by requiring a physician signature confirming the parent has been counseled about the health risks of opting out. This simple legislative change to Washington state policy has resulted in a **25% decrease in immunization exemptions** in the past year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Carlson".

Ken Carlson, M.D. FAAP
Chair, Oregon Pediatric Society
Childhood Health Associates of Salem

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Rosenbloom".

Jay Rosenbloom, M.D., FAAP
Member, Oregon Pediatric Society
Pediatric Associates of the Northwest



Oregonians for Healthy Children is a coalition led by: