

February 16, 2015

RE: SB 442 HARMS THE MOST VULNERABLE AND STRIPS PARENTS OF THEIR RIGHT TO PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN

Dear Senate Committee:

I am the mother of a truly amazing 15-year-old son named Samuel. Sam was developing normally until after his 18-month checkup, which involved the MMR vaccine. After that checkup he regressed, losing speech, losing his ability to communicate with us, hiding from all but close family. He used to be able to pantomime to Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star, point, and give high fives. After his vaccines, all of that was gone. As a parent, you are very in tune with your child. We knew something was wrong. It took another 8 months before we got the diagnosis: high-functioning autism.

Our other son, Maxwell, contracted the chicken pox from his chicken pox vaccine. I strongly believe that for a subset of children, vaccines are not only unwarranted, they are dangerous. They cripple our children's minds, they rob them of their future, they cause mental, psychological, behavioral, social and health problems. In my childhood, 8 vaccines was the norm. Now it's 25 to 28 vaccines. I know many parents whose child regressed immediately following their MMR or other prescribed vaccines.

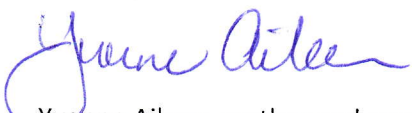
As parents, we availed ourselves of the religious exemption for future vaccines for our sons. This allowed them to stay in school, mainstreamed. We didn't like having to lie to keep our sons safe, to make sure they had a normal future, but it was the only option available to us. If SB 442 passes, parents will have to choose between injecting vaccines of questionable efficacy and potential harm into their already immune-compromised children, or removing their children from public school.

Parents with the means to homeschool or privatize their children's education will have an advantage over poorer families who have no option but to abide by the state's mandate. Thus, the very citizens who are least able to afford the care required should vaccine damage occur will be the ones most susceptible. These families will look to the State for financial assistance. The costs to lives and the state will be staggering.

Oregon is known as a progressive state: recycling, death with dignity, pro-choice, legalized marijuana. Given all that, how can Oregon strip parents of their basic right to protect their children? Would everyone who sponsored this bill be willing to take 25-28 vaccinations right now?

SB 442 is ill-advised, a violation of our civil rights, and it must not pass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvonne Aileen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Yvonne Aileen, mother and concerned Oregonian, Portland