

February 23rd, 2015

To the Senate Health Care Committee
Regarding Senate Bills on new SBHCs
SB 336, SB 337, SB 338, and SB 339

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Deborah Knapp and I'm currently a member of Parents' Rights in Education. I live near Gaston just outside of Forest Grove. The past experience I will mention occurred in the Forest Grove School District. My daughter was in third grade at that time.

Back in 1995 I testified at a hearing with regard to the infringement of my rights as a young mother. My testimony at that time had to do with school staff asking personal questions via popular legislation from 1991. That legislation was popular with agency heads but not popular with parents. Why? Because it sought to make government the parent over other people's children.

I am opposed to every single one of these bills because I disagree with having the government oversee my family's health care, whether through school based health clinics or any other avenue. I'm also in disagreement with taxpayer dollars taken from the general fund to further socialize education by infringing on parents' rights to oversee the health care of their own children.

My past experience with a first taste of the blurring of lines between health care and education was a decidedly bitter experience. Counseling my eight-year-old child without my knowledge or consent is one example of the potential problems associated with school based health centers and similar programs. In 1995, Forest Grove did not have a school based health center. The problems I encountered occurred directly in the elementary school classroom, both with the teacher and the counselor, and the counseling program.

It's well known among my peers that the bureaucratic nature of government is to create a crisis in order to grow itself. In 1995 I spoke of social ills in my testimony. That those ills are still with us is palpable; divorce, addictions, social diseases, crime, indolence, homelessness, and the breakdown of families. I understand government's concern in finding a way to address these problems. But government, thru its myriad agencies, needs to learn how not to be part of the problem.

We the people have our own nurses, doctors, counselors, local family meddlers, and even legislators. These fine professionals, including the meddlers, have been around a long time. We do not need school based health centers to link them with families.

Government cannot repair the broken hearts of people. That job needs to be left to the people. We, the parents and families of school children, are not without resources outside of state agencies and the public school system. I ask that you reconsider the whole concept of school based health care.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
✱ Deborah L. Knapp