

March 31, 2015

Senate Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR

Re: SB 920 Testimony

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Zammetti and I live in Grants Pass. I am also a second year law student at University of Oregon (Go Ducks!).

In February of 2015, my family nearly lost our 13-month old granddaughter Ariel to an antibiotic resistant urinary tract infection (UTI). It all began in mid-January when Ariel was diagnosed with a UTI by her primary care provider. She was prescribed a 10 day course of antibiotics (one from the penicillin family). At first she showed signs of improvement but shortly after completing the 10 days, her health rapidly declined. She had seriously high fevers causing febrile seizures, her motor coordination declined from previous levels, and she was so lethargic that she spent all of her time laying down, sleeping, or crying; eventually, she was so ill that even the crying stopped. Obviously this decline frightened our daughter who took Ariel to the emergency room at Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass.

Three Rivers staff discovered after testing that Ariel was dehydrated and still had the UTI. Additionally, Ariel's potassium levels were critically low, endangering her heart function. Staff made several attempts at placing in IV but were unable to set the needle in any vein. Doctor's used a drill to break through Ariel's calf bone to place an intra-osseous infusion needle (essentially an IV directly into the marrow). Ariel was so sickly at this point that she did not even cry during this procedure. I cannot say our daughter survived this process with the same ease. Medical staff provided antibiotics, potassium, and saline.

Four days went by with little improvement (white blood cell count remained extremely high, fever remained over 103 degrees, potassium levels improved, but she still refused to eat). Our daughter was near panic. At her request, Doctors began talking with medical staff at Doernbecher children's hospital and it was decided that transfer would be necessary. Ariel was transported via ambulance from Grants Pass to Portland.

Doernbecher staff cultured the bacteria to find an antibiotic that the e-coli bacteria would respond to and determined that Keflex would be an effective treatment. Seven days after Ariel's admission to Three Rivers Hospital in Grants Pass, she began to show signs of improvement; she began to eat and show the return of some of her normal behavior (engaging with us, sitting up on her own).

Three days on Keflex brought about a return to our Ariel – she was sitting, feeding, laughing, babbling, and engaging with us. Thank God and the staff at Doernbecher's, she is healthy today. However, this experience was traumatic for her and her family and I am testifying so you can help other families avoid something terrible like this. You should pass SB 920.

Sincerely yours,

JAZammetti

Jennifer Zammetti