

Dear Senators Arnie Roblan and Members of the Committee

Re: SB 895....A Step closer to the Scarlet "E"

Oregonians for Medical Freedom are opposed to SB 895

At a time when most educators and schools are looking at ways to prevent and reduce bullying, SB 895, if passed, will require schools to publicize information in their offices and on their websites, that will serve no valid purpose other than to promote social bullying against the children of those who have exercised their right to informed consent and opted to exempt their child from one or more of the vaccines mandated for school attendance under Oregon law. The goal of social bullying is to belittle and harm another individual or group in order to exercise control. By requiring the publication of exemption rates, a statistic that truly conveys no meaningful information, the only conversation that will be encouraged will be a conversation to control and belittle those who have exercised their fundamental right to not inject their child with at least one or more of the 49 vaccine doses required of school aged children. The statistic is meaningless, because under the statute as currently written, a child who is exempt because he didn't receive a third dose of the MMR vaccine but has received all other required vaccine dosages, is considered susceptible to restrictable disease. (Not to mention that this hypothetical child would also be counted among those who comprise the vaccination rate for MMR and every other vaccine targeted disease)

While the bill doesn't call for the publication of the names of those exempt, it certainly could and would lead to speculation of those names, and once again encourage gossip and bullying, all with the goal of coercing those who exercised their fundamental rights, to change their mind. It seems there is no limit to this line of thinking, as even Time Magazine on February 11, 2015, published an opinion piece calling for a national internet registry of the names and addresses of all non-vaccinated people. Oregonians deserve far better than that. Oregon doesn't need to and shouldn't fall prey to the hysteria that has been beaten into the public consciousness through the mass media, by an industry intent on eliminating all nonmedical exemptions to vaccines. Oregon doesn't need to bully those who have an exemption to start wearing a Scarlet "E". SB 895 is not a law Oregonians need or want.

Oregonians for Medical Freedom
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