

**Chairman Roblan and members of the committee, my name is Michael King. I live in Portland, Oregon and I am a Registered Nurse. I oppose SB 895 and the dash-2 amendment.**

While I understand this is the Education Committee, as Senator Hayward has decided to reapproach her SB442 bill under the guise of the educational system, I am forced to discuss healthcare with you all instead of education. This bill, which I might add that the latest dash-2 amendment was added less than 24 hours before this meeting, with SIGNIFICANT changes to the language, attempts to remove the education module that was established via SB 132 in 2013.

There are significant problems with this proposed amendment.

First, the Vaccine Education Module is uniform. It ensures the standard of vaccine education from family to family remains unchanged, and that cannot be said when left in the hands of each and every individual doctor or clinic. This legislation does not provide educational materials, but instead simply instructs health care practitioners to teach their patients information they may not have readily prepared to teach. Instead of using a quality standard that was devised two years ago, we will be adopting a substandard, varied educational practice that has no oversight to ensure practitioners are providing sufficient teaching. The Educational Module has been the solution to this problem for the past two years, and nothing has changed to suggest that a lower standard of education would be better-advised.

Second, this puts undue burden on families to have to pay for additional Doctor visits. Under the Affordable Healthcare Act, Doctor's schedules are already extremely full. Creating additional reasons to make physician visits instead of using an already-functioning educational module is not only a poor use of taxpayer dollars, but creates further stress on our burdened medical system. This bill goes one step further, removing Doctors of Naturopathic Medicine from the list of acceptable physicians under the new bill. Considering the system is already so taxed, and some families use Doctors of Naturopathic Medicine as their primary care physicians, this bill further restricts medical freedom by limiting which providers families may turn to in order to meet requirements for a basic education

for their children. In turn, this will only further limit access to that education, an unintended consequence of this bill.

Third, this new system puts inordinate power in the hands of the physician. Let me ask this: What happens if a physician *refuses* to sign the document stating they have provided education? No one is able to force the physician to sign, and if the document goes unsigned, the parent is out of compliance. If their Primary Care Physician refuses to sign the documents, who else will parents be able to turn to? There are NO provisions outlined under this bill to address such an obvious problem. When that parent is out of compliance, the child will be unable to attend school for the education they deserve and that their family's tax money pays for. I say "if" but it is really a matter of "when" this occurs. Physicians in this state and nationwide are already refusing service to patients who decline immunizations, even if they have been long-standing patients prior to opting out.

This is a form of discrimination and this bill only supports further medical discrimination. As honorable members of this committee, who support education and want all children to have access to education, is a bill that creates discrimination something you are willing to support?

I might mention that any bill such as this would also need to have a grievance process outlined for those families who are discriminated against in an attempt to follow the new regulations.

No such process is contained in this bill.

The grievance process and the necessary investigations during that process would also be cost-prohibitive and would only serve to create further barriers between physicians and families, which would be another inevitable unintended consequence of this bill.

This is a wide open invitation for overt manipulation of medical freedom. As this keeps coming up, I must remind you all that this amendment really has *nothing* to do with education. This is about medical freedom and one senator's attempts to restrict that freedom. I am appalled that a senator who is also a physician would

have the audacity to continue to produce bills that directly restrict the freedoms of the patients who she and I both serve.

Senator Steiner-Hayward has proposed legislation in the Education Committee that was defeated in the Healthcare Committee, but the fact remains that we **STILL** oppose the bill and its language, regardless of which committee it is proposed through, and we will continue to oppose Steiner-Hayward's overreach of her senatorial powers.

I have touched on this twice already, but this bill has been defeated once in a committee that is actually designed to address these issues. The bill was pulled because it did not receive sufficient senatorial support as a **DIRECT RESULT** of senators following the wishes of their constituents. Nothing has changed in the past two months that has caused constituents to view this bill in a different light. We still oppose SB442, or rather the new version titled SB 895 with the dash-2 amendment.

Please strike this bill down now. Thank you.