

April 9, 2015

Dear Senate Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today on SB895. I urge you to vote no on this flawed bill and here's why:

- The bill as first drafted abuses privacy rights of families who, for whatever reason, do not fully participate in the vaccine schedule or choose to exempt their children altogether. Those decisions are highly personal and require no justification. The hugely amended bill not only continues to violate privacy, it also makes parents jump through bureaucratic hoops if their child is missing even one vaccine or doesn't need a vaccine at all because they've already had the disease. And the bill's onerous requirements ask even more of already overloaded school personnel.
- On page 6 of the amendment the wording about NDs is unclear; can they or can't they sign education module paperwork for parents who choose to exempt their children? NDs are listed on line 19 but not line 24. NDs receive approximately three times the number of vaccine education hours in school compared to conventional medical students and deserve an equal seat at the table. The wording would need to clearly spell out that NDs, too, are authorized signers.
- Finally, the amendment requires parents who choose to exempt their children from vaccines to be educated with information that is "consistent with information published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention" (page 2, line 20). I have read the CDC's recommendations: they are unapologetically skewed toward a pro-vaccination model that, in effect, scares parents into vaccinating. A true education module would fairly represent both sides.

This bill is yet another invasive and unnecessary public health machination. Thank you in advance for not allowing it to prosper.

Sincerely yours,

A.L. Wood  
1045 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Gresham, OR