

Dear Senator Arnie Roblan and Members of the Committee,

Subject: SB895-2

Yesterday evening I submitted comments to this committee in opposition of SB895. Shortly thereafter I learned that the sponsor of this bill submitted a lengthy amendment that completely transforms the nature of this bill. This letter is in opposition to SB895-2.

SB895-2 is nothing more than Mrs. Steiner-Hayward's latest underhanded attempt to move forward her vaccination agenda. SB442 failed in the Health Committee and she is now trying to use this committee to push forward what she could not do in the Health Committee. There is a reason SB442 failed to make it out of the Health Committee, and what is happening here is nothing more than a regurgitation of her failed attempt.

Currently, parents can claim a philosophical exemption after watching a video module created by the OHA. This system has not been in place for a full year yet; however, the sponsor of this bill wants to remove this option without any evidence as to whether the video modules are working or not.

This bill will further remove parental choice by making exemptions be signed by a physician only; which in essence removes the philosophical exemption and would only allow for medical exemptions as prescribed by the CDC. Let us be clear on something here, the basic purpose of this is to completely remove the philosophical exemption and make it impossible to obtain a medical exemption. This is Mrs. Steiner-Heyward's end game. She further deteriorates the doctor-patient relationship by removing naturopaths from being able to sign medical exemptions. This is discriminatory and a violation of naturopath's rights as fully licensed physicians in the state of Oregon.

I strongly urge you members of the committee to oppose this legislation and strike it down. It is detrimental to Oregonians as a whole, to parents, to children, and only serves to shame, bully, and force parents who have used informed consent and have educated themselves on the benefits and risks of vaccinations into vaccinating their children. This bill, if passed, is akin to coercion and will negatively impact thousands of Oregon families who have made informed choices for their children.

Please oppose this bill and use the Education Committee to lead the way in improving and developing successful outcomes in education. Do not let the sponsor of this bill use this committee to further an agenda that has not an iota to do with education.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Gonzalez
Tualatin, OR