

**Subject:** NO testimony for SB 895 today

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I see that awful amendments were added late yesterday after many people have already submitted written comments. At a minimum, the bill hearing should be postponed until everybody has a chance to review. It is clear the sponsor is trying to get her way through the Education committee since it failed in the health committee.

Oregon meets or exceeds childhood vaccine rates as set by the CDC. There is no emergency. The things that keep kids from education are poverty and hunger. In fact, by drawing attention to vaccines, more people are becoming educated about the risks, and exemption requests will go up, not down. School vaccine exemption information already exists and a parent need only ask for it. This bill just gives school staff something else to do, more paperwork to fill out, with little effect. Do you really think that putting an exemption number on a school website is going to improve education or keep everybody healthy? I also believe it can and will violate medical privacy. Don't do it!

The leading causes of death of kids in Oregon is SIDS, cancer and suicide. Not measles, not whooping cough. If you really want to do something to help Oregon kids stay healthy and stay in school, how about feeding the 25% of them that are going to bed hungry every night? <http://www.childrendefensetnetwork.org/sites/childrendefensetnetwork.org/files/Oregon%202013%20State%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

Our immune systems are each individual and react differently to diseases and drugs, live-vaccines "shed" to others, diet and nutrition matter, as do personal and religious beliefs. The idea of putting a number about injection status on a school website does exactly nothing to improve health and just creates bad feelings and busywork.

If Senator Hayward trots out Mississippi again as having the nation's highest vaccination rate (98%), I want to make sure you know that Mississippi also ranks dead last (50th) for OVERALL childhood health. Health is complex - trying to get from 95 to 98% vaccinated does not make us healthier or improve education, and causes bad feelings by using force and threats of withholding education. Oregon's kids have high poverty - please address that first. Here is the link showing Mississippi ranking last (Oregon ranks 8th): <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/>

Our family doctor is a Naturopath who takes great care of me and my children. If you are going to require a physician's signature, that is fine, as long as the existing family health care provider or any care provider a family chooses is permissible.

My own daughter explodes with eczema when she gets the chickenpox vaccine. We have done it to her three times, each time it is worse - resulting in scars on her legs and arms. This bill would require us to do it to her for a FOURTH time. This is the only vaccine we decline, and yet this bill would deny her an education because of her reaction. Please vote no, I ask you sincerely, this forcing of medical procedures is wrong, and frankly not in the scope of an Education committee.

Lastly, please respect medical privacy, the right to informed consent, the right to make our own medical decisions together with our health care provider. If the Education committee passes this, I believe it amounts to practicing medicine without a license.

Thank you,  
Sandra Ganey  
Portland, OR