

Subject: SB 895

<https://medium.com/@sb442no/sneaky-steiner-hayward-s-lilly-rider-23rd-hour-change-to-sb-895-e7bb56feee64>

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee:

I apologize for the mass email, but in the interest of time and getting out the door for work this morning, I have no choice.

You'll be hearing public testimony this afternoon on SB 895. I urge you to read the article at the above link before the hearing today for some important background information. It was written late last night by some concerned Oregonians.

I urge a NO vote on SB 895. In its original form, it is nothing more than a public shaming bill, and runs the risk of violating HIPPA and FERPA privacy laws if a student's person identity is found out. If a school has a small enough data sample in terms of their exemption rate, it would be possible for someone to ferret out their identity using other readily available identifying features.

Additionally, exemption rates in Oregon mean very little because of how they are calculated. 23 doses of 7 different vaccines are required for school and if a student is missing even one of those 23 doses they are "exempt." This has often been misinterpreted to mean unvaccinated. There are very few students who have been exempted from all 23 doses. Many are missing only the Hep B shot, which a lot of parents feel is unsafe due to the amount of aluminum in it, and poses almost no risk to their child as an infant or young child. Yet, Oregon requires it at 18 months old for childcare attendance.

Also, exemption rates posted for schools would be meaningless because they won't include the adults at the school, which can make up 10 to 15% of the school population. Kids at "risk" by unvaccinated peers are certainly at risk from unvaccinated/waning immunity adults. To not include them in the school numbers is disingenuous and makes it clear the real intent of this bill is shaming of parents.

However, my real outrage is what Senator Steiner-Hayward (the sponsor) pulled yesterday. At 1:05 pm after the 24 hour window closed in which you ask for public testimony to be submitted, a -2 amendment mysteriously appeared on the OLIS website totally changing the main focus of this bill! She is trying to sneak this through without giving the public adequate time to weigh in.

The amendment will remove the online vaccine module as an option for getting an exemption. (How much money did we taxpayers pay for that??? It has been in use for ONE YEAR ONLY and we don't even have the data back on it to see how well it worked. And she is ready to throw it out already?) It also requires a doctor visit for a non-medical exemption, while in the process discriminating against naturopathic doctors (ND) by saying that only a MD, PA or Nurse Practitioner may sign the exemption. In Oregon, a ND may administer vaccines. They may also sign the medical exemption. But, you're not going to allow them to sign the non-medical exemption? How is that possible?

If you want true consent legislated, you MUST require that doctors discuss benefits and ALL OF THE RISKS of the vaccine. This will require parents to be given the vaccine package insert so they may read everything that the manufacturer has said about the risks, not just the worthless one page CDC form that is passed out. Additionally, any practitioner who is licensed in Oregon to administer vaccines MUST

be allowed to sign the exemption. Finally, an option for people with a bona fide religious objection to get the exemption without going through a medical doctor must be restored.

This bill doesn't even appear to belong in the Education Committee since it directly impacts doctors in this state. It belongs in the Health Care Committee. I certainly hope that you will not allow this underhanded behavior from the sponsor to continue and be encouraged. Please don't even consider the -2 amendment due to the way that it was added last minute, to a committee where it doesn't belong.

And please vote no on the original version of SB 895. Oregon families deserve better than shaming, bullying, and worthless data that will not create "community conversation" as the sponsor wants.

Sincerely,

Darcy Rapoza
Salem

Cc: my elected officials