

**Subject:** Take Public Health Policy out of Education. Oppose SB 895

Dear Senators of the Education Committee,  
(CC: Senator Prozanski)

I'm writing you today to oppose introduced Senate Bill 895, in both it's original form and amendment -2.

In it's original form, the bill, at it's best, requires educators and administrators to spend their limited funds and staff on compiling and publishing data that threatens, if not violates, HIPAA and FERPA protection of medical and educational records. At it's worst, it forces responsibility for the enforcement of public health policies into the hands of our schools. Our educators and administrators should be allowed to focus on the important task of educating our children.

I am also concerned about isolation, bullying and exclusion of students who have exemptions on file. Students infected with Hepatitis B are protected, but students who were not vaccinated at birth for a sexually transmitted disease would be at risk for exposure, isolation and potential exclusion from school. This also applies for children who are exempt because they have natural immunity due to previous infection. This also applies for students whose parents have chosen to selectively vaccinate a child who has had previous severe adverse reactions. Note that previous adverse reaction to a vaccination does not qualify a child for medical exemption from even the same vaccine that they reacted to. Our children, all of our children, have a right to education.

In it's amended form, SB 895-2 reduces medical freedom without need. Data from the online vaccine education model hasn't even been published yet. Why change policy if we don't know how effective or ineffective it might be? Where is the emergency?

I believe that the vaccine education model is the best way to present consistent, unbiased. current information on vaccination and immunization. It also has the opportunity to offer so much more information in the hour or more it takes to complete the module than 5-10 minutes in the office of an MD, DO, PA or NP during a well child visit that is already short on time.

Please note that ND's, who are recognized as primary care physicians and who include vaccination in their standard of care, are not included in SB 895-2. For families who regularly see their trusted PCP, who happens to be an ND instead of an MD or DO, this places an undue financial burden and increased exposure to sick patients by requiring additional visits to a second provider.

Please don't make schools responsible for the enforcement of public health policy. Please don't reduce our medical freedoms without clear evidence of a public health emergency. Please take note of the similarly introduced SB 442, which was unable to move out of the Senate Committee on Health Care. As this bill is based on public health policy, the Senate Committee on Health Care should be required to review this bill as well.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Bridget Piccioni

District 4  
25322 Perkins Rd, Veneta OR 97487

--

inspiration exists but it has to find you working. - pablo picasso