

Subject: Oppose SB 895-2

Reply-To: Patrice Fernandez <patriceyfernandez@yahoo.com>

Dear Ms. Engbring,

This is a letter I sent to the Senate Education Committee. Please include as testimony in today's work session. Thank you.

I am a voting citizen of Jackson County, and a mother of two partially vaccinated children.

I am writing to urge you to oppose SB 895-2 today.

Senator Steiner Hayward's legislation makes exemptions more difficult to get, such as meeting with a doctor to obtain "Vaccine Education". Parents who choose to forgo or partially vaccinate are already highly educated on the matter. **Does the State plan to pay the bill for these doctor appointments? Or will the doctors be donating their time for this? Who bears the burden? How much has been allocated to cover these doctor appointments? Who bears the burden of parents taking time off work to attend this?** This is nothing more than an attempt to punish parents who are trying to protect their children, based on well-informed consent.

Also, as I understand it, the consult cannot be done by an ND. This is not acceptable, and is too much of a government overreach for families who choose NDs as their primary care practitioners. NDs are also classified as primary care practitioners in Oregon. **I urge you to check into the legality of this exclusion.** Senator Steiner Hayward has excluded them from this, because NDs are trained differently than allopathic MDs. What I have learned having a son with an underlying mitochondrial disorder, is that allopathic MDs are not trained in this area at all. **It is not the state's role to decide what type of healthcare practitioner is best for my son and my family.** These are the children who will be most vulnerable to vaccines as they have impaired ability to detoxify. <http://www.mthfr.com>

Senator Steiner Hayward also proposed to make available the names of students who have exemptions. **This is a clear violation of HIPPA, and should not be allowed to move forward. This legislation is illegal.** Her purpose of this is clear: to further the vaccine agenda through shaming and bullying, something some parents and children have to struggle with even without this arcane, illegal legislation.

My story: When my son entered Kindergarten, his teachers grew increasingly concerned over what they could only describe as anxiety. He could not get along with others and had an inability to engage in an age appropriate way. Fast forward another year, and we were blessed with a teacher who knew about MTHFR gene defect, and suggested we get our son tested. He tested positive for this defect, which severely impacts the immune system, the body's ability to methylate, absorb nutrients, and detoxify. In other words, he is not a good candidate for vaccines. We chose to selectively vaccinate him when he was younger, prior to our knowledge of his genetic risk. We educated ourselves on the risks of the vaccine vs the risks of the disease and made what I thought was an INFORMED CHOICE at that time. Thank God we never gave him MMR, or I am certain we would be facing a much more difficult problem today, as has been confirmed by our healthcare professionals. Neither MTHFR nor any other mitochondrial disorder is considered a medical exemption. **Any legislation which forces vaccinations on people is simply trading one vulnerable group for another, possibly larger vulnerable group.**

If the state is concerned about Public Health, let's look at the real public health issues occurring, and take action. (breastfeeding education, nutritional issues (food supply, processed foods et al), exercise, kids getting killed by drunk drivers, etc.). Stop chasing down this vaccine agenda. All it is doing is making more people realize the potential dangers and failures of vaccines. It will result in more families doing more research and probably an increase in exemptions. If the State is interested in lower exemption rates, the best action is to back off on any legislation, and begin more research and studies. Make vaccine manufacturers legally liable. They need to bear the burden of proof that all vaccines are safe and effective for everyone, and I am sure you can agree that this is not the case at this time. A good place to start is my listening to your many constituents who have studied vaccines in depth, or who have suffered vaccine injury and even loss of a child.

Please do not support any legislation that mandates forced vaccinations, or further generates discrimination against families who require exemptions.

With much respect and appreciation for your time,
Patrice Lowes
Ashland, OR