

Sen Arnie Roblan – Chair
Sen Tim Knopp – Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Education Committee:
Sen Baertschiger, Sen Beyer, Sen Gelsner, Sen Gelsner, Sen Kruse

April 15, 2015

OPPOSE SB 895: Child Immunizations

1. There is no need for this bill. Information related to immunization rates is already available thru a simple search engine query.
2. There is no crisis of unvaccinated testing herd immunity thresholds. As was heard regarding Senator Steiner Hayward's SB 442 in the Senate Health Committee, simply counting exemptions grossly over-counts the number of "unvaccinated." The vast majority of parents who utilize non-medical exemptions selectively vaccinate. They simply have decided along with their health care provider that some vaccines are more necessary than others. Oregon Herd Immunity thresholds are higher than CDC recommendations.
3. Public health officials routinely acknowledge that Pertussis and Seasonal Influenza vaccines aren't as effective as other vaccines. Parents who utilize exemptions may choose to forego the risk of these vaccines considering their relatively poor efficacy. But, willingly comply with the rest of the vaccine schedule.
4. There is no data to suggest the online education module isn't working.
5. There is nothing in the law that compels a physician to sign the form, or even to meet with a patient who wants to have a form signed.
6. The bill violates privacy of medical decisions and threatens to ostracize and scapegoat parents who choose to be selective about vaccination. As confident as public health authorities and some physicians are about vaccination, science is always advancing. It is reasonable to consider that parents who question vaccination may turn out to be right.
7. Increasing coverage rates is no guarantee of a prevention of outbreaks. Outbreaks occur in vaccine compliant populations:
 - a. Quebec, 2011, 725 measles cases, vaccine coverage: 95-97%.
 - b. Berlin, German, 2015, 250+ measles cases, vaccine coverage 95%.
 - c. Germany 2013, nearly 2,000 measles cases, vaccine coverage 95%
 - d. China, 2014, nearly 50,000 measles cases, vaccine coverage 99%.

There are many more outbreaks in nearly completely compliant populations.
Mandates will not eliminate outbreaks.

I urge a NO vote.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jeff Simon
La Grande