

Subject: SB895 - Please do not bully our kids

Dear Senator Roblan and Members of the Education Committee,

Today you will be voting on some iteration of SB895. Again, I implore you to please realize what kind of environment this bill will create in our schools.

Since this 'controversy' began in the media, I have read other parents refer to children who, for whatever reason, have exemptions, as "filthy," "disgusting," "vermin," "diseased," and "deserve to be shot dead."

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT MY CHILDREN TO HAVE TO FACE AT SCHOOL?

As a child, I experienced a disabling reaction to the old DPT shot. Nonetheless, I stepped up to the plate and vaccinated our first born. Unfortunately, he too experienced an adverse reaction that took years to address. I simply will not take that risk with our second child.

Confidentiality does not exist at my children's schools. Just the other day, I signed in to volunteer and saw that a student, by name, was having an escorted DHS visit (which explained the police car outside). I have been told about restraining orders, custody battles, autism, etc.

SB895 is CRUEL. In good conscience, can you support bullying children? I hope your answer is no.

Sophia Mekkers
Tualatin, Oregon

On Thursday, April 9, 2015, J.S. Mekkers <themekkersfamily@gmail.com> wrote:
Dear Senator Roblan and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to you to express our strong opposition to SB 895 and, in particular, the last minute amendments to the bill yesterday afternoon. Work commitments prevent us from attending the public hearing this afternoon, so we ask that you please consider our written comments.

As you are likely aware, Senator Steiner Hayward was not able to advance SB442 beyond her Health Care Committee. In response, the Senator publically demeaned her colleagues; stating that they were not prepared to take on such a controversial issue. Contrary to her belief, the Senator's colleagues listened to their constituents, educated themselves, and responded accordingly. We hope that the Education Committee does the same.

SB895 is a bill designed to intimidate and bully parents and children who have not submitted to the exact CDC vaccination schedule. Senator Steiner Hayward stated that her bill will encourage "community conversations." We fail to understand the Senator's statement. As the statistics are required to be anonymous, the only community

conversation that could take place would be that of gossip and speculation. Is it the Senator's hope that families will be pressured and bullied into submission, or driven out, by their school communities? Aren't we striving to make our schools "bully-free" zones? Aside from these issues, the disseminated "data" will only include information about the children enrolled at the school, not adult staff and volunteers, thus giving parents a false sense of "security" or "fear."

The Senator's amendments to the bill attempt to revive language that didn't make it out of her Health Care Committee. In addition, the new language requires parents and doctors (specifically excluding NDs), to only discuss CDC information about vaccine schedules, "benefits," and "risks" which they must attest to with signatures. We should not have to sign a form, acknowledging CDC information that we do not believe or trust, as a condition of our children attending public school. Based upon our scientific research, we do not believe that the CDC schedule for vaccination is in the best interest of our children, nor do we believe that it is a risk to our children, or to others, if we do not follow the CDC schedule. Will doctors feel comfortable signing these forms? One only needs to reference a recent bill before the legislature, regarding Lyme disease treatment, to learn about the powerful culture of intimidation within the Oregon medical community. Why did the Senator specifically exclude NDs from the identified medical professionals who can provide signatures? Is the Senator concerned that NDs might be more willing to sign the form for their patients?

We have many other concerns regarding the proposed bill, but time is of the essence to provide these comments to you. We implore you to consider the appalling consequences of the legislation that Senator Steiner Hayward is proposing and reject SB 895-2 in its entirety. We are stunned and saddened to witness Senator Steiner Hayward use deceptive tactics (the substance of the bill differs from the titled scope) to force tyrannical language that has already been rejected this session.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeff and Sophia Mekkers
Tualatin, Oregon