

Subject: Testimony for SB 895 today

Dear Education Committee,

I am asking you to oppose SB895. This bill is unnecessary and contributes to creating a hostile environment towards unvaccinated children in our communities and sets a dangerous legal precedent for the medical privacy of children in our schools.

The argument has been made that this data should be published on school websites so if parents have an immunocompromised person at home they know what the vaccination rates are as this would give them an idea of what diseases they are at risk of catching.

However if that same parent is so concerned this data is already public and they can look it up easily online. It does not need to be published on the every school website.

Publishing vaccination data On the schools website only continues to perpetuate the fear based assumptions that unvaccinated children are a risk to the community. That these children are undesirable to have in schools, that low immunization rates in a school is something to fear. What do you expect parents who do not have an immunocompromised individual at home to do with this information? The parents who truly need this information already have access to it- and the parents who would not actively seek this information out- what is the desired effect? For them to get angry? For them to be afraid? If they are worried about their child contracting chickenpox then they have already vaccinated their child against this disease and someone in the school have chickenpox should have no effect. Publishing vaccination rates on school websites will create targets- schools that have low vaccination rates will be targeted and unvaccinated individuals will be at risk- of speculation, bullying, harassment and discrimination.

Additionally, there are many scientific studies that show that recently vaccinated individuals vaccinated with live virus vaccines can shed the virus up to two weeks after vaccination. It states on John Hopkins website on care for immuno compromised individuals that those vaccinated with the MMR, chickenpox or other live virus vaccine avoid contact with immunocompromised individuals for two weeks post vaccination due to shedding. So if you are truly concerned about protecting your immunocompromised loved one at home, a more reliable thing to know is what children have been recently vaccinated and avoid contact with them as well.

Furthermore, passing this bill creates a very dangerous legal precedent- to what end do we compromise our students medical privacy for the ability of parents to "judge" what the amount of risk is in attending school?

Should we begin posting HIV statistics at schools- after all, that is not a formerly routine childhood illness such as measles and chickenpox and it carries with it no known cure and an ultimate outcome of death.

According to the Oregon Public Health Division CD summary in 2013 there were 209 new cases of HIV and 55 deaths and 6 cases of measles with 0 deaths, and 485 cases of pertussis with 0 deaths. Do I have a right to know if my child is at risk for contracting HIV in a school setting-

especially in high school where sexual activity is occurring? Sure, I can talk to my child about responsible behavior but I can't control their decisions- this data could be helpful- right?. What about posting on the school website incidents of all sexually transmitted diseases? A life long herpes infection or other std defiantly poses a health risk to my child.

What about mental health? Perhaps as a parent I would feel safer knowing how many children are diagnosed with ADHD and other behaviors issues so I can choose a school with low incidents of children with behavior issues so my child can concentrate better and get more of his/her teachers attention. And maybe we should order schools to post how many children have been diagnosed with depression and/or anxiety and a number of other mental health issues- as my child is at far greater risk of dying in a school shooting by his/her peer than they do of dying from measles and a vast majority of school shooters were on one or more medications for a mental health issue.

Look at the precedent you are setting and ask yourself- where does it stop?

Not to mention the fact that we are talking about unvaccinated children- not children that have any disease or disorder. If you are worried about a vaccine preventable disease vaccinate your child and leave mine alone.

Respectfully,
Sarah Bacon

Sent from my iPhone