

Dear Education Committee Senators:

I am hoping to reach you before you vote on SB895-5.

Requiring Oregon schools to provide exemption rates school by school is an extreme measure that is not required by any other state in the union. It will cost time and money and provide little benefit, as the vaccine rates are already on or above target with the OHA thanks to SB132. For those few who want to dissociate themselves from a particular school due to its exemption status, the information needs to be useful and complete. For example, if parents receive a number such as "95% of the students here have received the MMR," how do the numbers stack up against OHA's goals, or the rates of other states or countries, what the efficacy rate for a given vaccine is or even why this information is being provided? Some are unfamiliar with how diseases are transmitted and are fearful of non-transmissible vaccine preventable diseases. So a low rate for Hep B might be alarming when it is very unlikely to be transmitted at school. Also some vaccines have a higher failure rate, such as pertussis. Due to this, Pertussis outbreaks are predicted to continue even in a 100% vaccinated population. It is likely exempted parents would be implicated when there is plenty of evidence that the vaccinated are disease susceptible too. Those who are science literate will recognize the need for this.

I called Mr. Aaron Dunn of OHA to see what the adverse events rates are in Oregon. I was shocked to learn that that information is nowhere on the website. It turns out they don't keep that data. How is it possible for me to support SB895-5 if there isn't balanced information? "Hard conversations" can only be one-sided and biased under these circumstances. Furthermore, when I see that OHA doesn't have Oregon's adverse events numbers, I have to assume that none of you has ever seen that information. How can policy be set without knowing this key information? Before we have these conversations, let's make sure we know what we are talking about. Without balance in the information provided, it is less likely to be viewed as information and more likely to be considered propaganda by those who are vaccine hesitant.

I have myself experienced "hard conversations" resulting from inaccurate, biased and fear based policy. My Mom had Tuberculosis. She was taken away for a year and put into a sanatorium when I was three. My brother and I saw her once a week through a chain-link fence. After she was released, we were ostracized by many neighborhood parents out of fear, even though my mother was not contagious. She is now eighty years old and still breaks down in tears at the mention of that time. Now Senator Steiner Hayward says that it is reasonable for parents to ask about their child's prospective playmates' vaccine status, as though they are a threat. This is the sort of attitude that has caused my family so much pain.

I have written to you previously about the other "hard conversations" my family has experienced—being bullied and retaliated against by school administration—so I won't repeat those details here. But I filed due process and won a settlement against that school district, and I believe this bill could potentially be misused and could put school districts in legal danger for FERPA violations. This potential is higher in a school like mine where there are only 31 students. This bill is divisive and counter to a productive educational experience where we first learn about diversity and acceptance.

I ask you to oppose this bill in its current form not only due to these concerns but also because it is unnecessary. The education module is working as intended to elevate vaccination numbers. People like me who are already stressed to the extreme to care for my vaccine injured child have had our lives turned upside down because of one senator's angst. Much ado about nothing is the name of this

drama. I would like very much to go about the business of raising my family without having to do battle to keep my family safe and well. Please do not support this bill so I can do just that.

Paula Bryant-Trerise