

## **SB 895 is unnecessary, over-reaching and a violation of privacy.**

Dear members of the Senate Education Committee,

I urge you to vote No on SB 895 (and all of its amendments - 7 now?) This is unnecessary, a violation of FERPA rules, costly to individual families, essentially an mandate for vaccines, and will exclude many children from their right to a free and appropriate public education. Oregon's vaccine exemption rate is actually very low, considering that even one exemption from one vaccine categorizes a student as being totally unvaccinated.

“First, do no harm.”

The hypocrisy is blatant:

- Adults can be in the schools, regardless of their vaccine status, or active infections (no banning for persons with communicable diseases such as HIV, Hepatitis, etc.)
- Children who have recently received “live” vaccines which shed the disease, can be in school, shedding the virus which causes others to get ill.
- Oregon Health Authority and the vaccine advisory committee set up by the Oregon Legislature can advise, without this new layer of bureaucracy of mandates.
- Many children who come from families with autoimmune diseases, or compromised immune systems, (and with the autism explosion in our society today,) should be evaluated by their own family doctor/pediatrician with regard to vaccines. They should not be mandated to have vaccines with this type of family history, just because they have not suffered their own personal vaccine damage - yet.

### **SB 895: School Disclosure of Exemption Rates:**

- Exemption rates are readily available on the Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Live websites. Any internet search using the keywords “Oregon vaccine exemption rate – schools” can locate the information in less than 10 seconds.
- Smaller schools will be at immediate risk for violating FERPA rules regarding records privacy.
- The purpose of sharing the information so explicitly at the school-level is questionable. There are no safeguards within a school environment for which administrators have access to exemption data, and the risk of privacy violations, bullying, and misunderstanding appear high.
- Importantly, “exempt” can mean “child has received 22 out of 23 required vaccinations.” Combined with no reporting requirement for faculty and administration (typically 10-20 percent of a school's population) the utility of the data is also questionable.

### **SB 895 – 2: Amendment regarding medical professional approval for vaccine exemption:**

- SB 895 would eliminate all of the rules for vaccine exemptions recently introduced through SB 132 which requires parents to watch an online module regarding vaccinations. The Oregon Health Authority has not yet reported on the module's impact on vaccine exemption rates, as it was only introduced in 2014.
- If passed, SB 895 will not allow an exemption for religious beliefs. A parent who does not use an allopathic doctor or chooses to not vaccinate due to their religious beliefs, will be required to seek out a medical professional.
- Under SB 895, medical professionals are not required to sign the form after meeting with a parent, which means the new rule serves as an effective vaccine mandate.
- With 32,000 exemptions signed in 2013, it is estimated the new rule in SB 895 will cost Oregonians \$3-6 million. With no insurance code for "vaccine consultation" this cost will likely be borne by citizens.

I urge you to not let SB 895 pass to a vote in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
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