



From the Desk of  
Senator  
Tim Knopp

15532 SW Pacific HWY, C1B 118 | Tigard, OR 97224

[www.oregoniansformedicalfreedom.com](http://www.oregoniansformedicalfreedom.com) | [info@oregoniansformedicalfreedom.com](mailto:info@oregoniansformedicalfreedom.com)

Dear Senators,

June 29, 2015

**We are writing to ask you to vote No on Senate Bill 895** because we, and the 3,000+ members of Oregonians for Medical Freedom, believe the legislation is unnecessary, creates rampant privacy risks, and reverses the legislators' implicit promise in 2013 to preserve existing and filed religious exemptions. We believe SB 895 will inevitably lead to public shame and blame towards parents and their children.

Senate Bill 132 created an "interactive online educational video" and was passed in the 2013 legislative session, which has led to a 17% decline in the personal belief vaccine exemption rate in Oregon according to the Oregon Health Authority. SB 132 also protected and preserved the existing religious exemptions that were then on file. Section 4 of SB 895 eliminates the grandfathered protection of those religious rights.

**SB 895 is unprecedented, and unnecessary.** SB 895 would require schools, twice per year, to provide parents with a "vaccination report card" that includes two data points: i) school-level vaccine exemption rates, and ii) specific vaccination rates by required vaccine (MMR, DTaP, Hep B, etc.). Please consider:

**1. Oregon's personal belief exemption just declined 17% in one year**

A child who received 22 of 23 mandatory vaccines for school attendance is classified by OHA's OIP as "exempt" creating nearly endless confusion over what "exempt" actually means. Nonetheless, the exemption rate is down 17% since SB 132 was implemented 16 months ago, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

**2. The immunocompromised won't benefit**

Without including the vaccination and exemption rates of teachers, administrators, and any other adults in the school setting, how can this data possibly be used by parents of a child with immune challenges? An incomplete look at a community's population is only that—an incomplete look.

**3. Privacy and shaming risks abound**

The vaccine exemption forms in the school environment have no explicit privacy provisions and are often handled by multiple administrators. Passage of SB 895 will lead to numerous FERPA violations, the Federal Education Right to Privacy Act. Scaring, shaming, and blaming have been proven to negatively affect rates. SB 132 has kept the vaccination decision where it belongs: in the privacy of each parent's home and between the parents and their doctor.

We believe SB 132 strikes a delicate and appropriate balance between informed consent, personal privacy, and medical freedom, and we believe the video module is working as part of the exemption process which should remain it is now, a private decision for parents to make with their doctor.

**Please vote NO on Senate Bill 895.**

Sincerely,

Robert M. Snee, Esq.  
*Committee Director*

Paul Thomas, M.D.  
*Committee Co-Chair*

Jennifer Margulis, Ph.D.  
*Committee Co-Chair*