

26 March 2017

Subj: SB 580

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am writing to you in support of SB 580, a bill that would require health care practitioners to provide written notice of each vaccination that a child is required to receive to attend school or daycare, and of the exemptions that are available.

Vaccination exemptions have been made available in Oregon's law for parents that have religious or philosophical objections to some, or all, vaccinations. Yet, the Oregon Health Authority does a poor job of communicating this information to parents. Although there is information on OHA's website regarding the nonmedical vaccine exemption, if you look at the "Immunization Requirements" flyer (attached as a separate document) that schools and doctors' offices use, there is no mention at all of available exemptions – not even the medical exemption. If a parent is uneducated about what the law actually says, they would not know from this poster what their rights are. As vaccinations are a medical procedure that carries the risk of injury, or even death, parents need to know all their rights, under Oregon law.

I urge you to support this important bill, and vote to move it to the full Senate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Darcy J. Rapoza

Salem