

26 March 2017

Subj: SB 869

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

I am writing to you in support of SB 869, a bill that would require health care practitioners, before administering a vaccination to a child, to obtain informed consent from the parent of the child, or from the child, if emancipated or at the age of majority.

Informed consent – being given all the information, including risks and benefits, of a medical procedure – has always been the foundation of the American medical system. However, in the area of vaccinations, parents are rarely given true informed consent. When it comes to vaccinations, information is heavily skewed toward the touted benefits of the procedure, with little, or any, emphasis placed on possible risks.

Vaccinations are a medical procedure that, unlike any other medical procedure, are routinely given in a one-size-fits-all fashion to all children. As with most medical procedures, they carry with them the risk of injury (as evidenced by the nearly \$3B that has been paid out under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program [VICP]). Parents deserve to have ALL the information regarding a vaccination that is about to be administered to their child, and this includes having access to the package insert (which lists all possible risks and side effects, and contains information on how the vaccine was tested), if they choose to read it, and information on how to file a claim pursuant to the VICP. Many parents are unaware that there is even a process to report adverse vaccine reactions or injuries, until after the statute of limitations for filing a claim has passed. This is not right, and needs to be corrected.

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