

26 March 2017

Subj: SB 914

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

I am writing to you in support of SB 914, a bill that establishes that decisions related to vaccinations are personal health care decisions and that vaccinations may not be mandated by an employer as a condition of employment unless required by federal law.

Every year I have read more and more reports from around the country of people in the health care field that have been fired from their job for refusal to get a flu shot. In some cases, even employees that have no patient contact, have been required to receive a flu shot, or risk being fired. This is even more disturbing when coupled with the information that comes out each winter on how ineffective the current year's flu shot was, once again. Vaccinations are a medical procedure that carry risk of injury or death, and should never be administered on a one-size-fits-all basis. No one's livelihood should be in jeopardy by refusing to undergo a medical procedure that may injure or kill them.

This is an issue that is not going away, and I think that Oregon should codify its citizens' rights in law to protect them from having to choose between their job and their health.

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