

Greetings,

I am writing in support of SB869, relating to informed consent for vaccinations. I am a mother of two and the spouse of an elder with medical challenges and I am concerned that repeatedly over the years I have been offered vaccines on their behalf without full information to provide true informed consent.

In the case of my husband, he is a cancer survivor and has endured 4 major abdominal surgeries plus numerous hospitalizations for bowel obstructions. Each time he has been in hospital, he has been offered vaccinations for such illnesses as shingles, influenza, and pneumonia. He was never offered significant information on the vaccines, their ingredients, or their contraindications or potential adverse reactions. Please note that on most occasions he was concurrently being given antibiotics and/or painkillers.

In the case of my children, we have selectively vaccinated them, and on each occasion again, I was not offered adequate information to exercise true informed consent. Rather, I was given a brief vaccine information sheet provided by the CDC, which did not contain an ingredients list or a full listing of possible adverse reactions and contraindications. In the case of my son, he actually developed tics for two years after receiving a DTaP vaccine at 8 years old, possibly as a result of the vaccine. I was not even made aware of tics being a potential side-effect of the DTaP vaccine.

I find it very disturbing that pharmacists, school nurses, and others without full access to my teenaged daughter's medical records or history could give her a vaccination by obtaining consent based on a cursory description of the vaccine or its CDC information sheet. This is not true informed consent. True informed consent requires providing full information on the procedure offered, including benefits, risks, and contraindications.

Please protect the health of Oregonians and protect our right to true informed consent and support SB869.

Sincerely,

Mary Alionis  
Oregon resident