

To Whom It May Concern:

We write to urge support for SB 869, which will bolster the requirements for informed consent before vaccine administration, and SB 580, which will require that doctors provide written notice to parents that there are exemptions available should they not wish to vaccinate their children, or to vaccinate according to an alternate schedule that would place the child in violation of school requirements.

Informed consent, as per SB 869, simply makes sense, and it resonates with the very inalienable rights upon which our forefathers stood when they founded this nation. Informed consent - especially as regards anything that involves one's own bodily integrity - is foundational to our rights as humans and as Americans, being a right derived from the rights to life and to liberty. Indeed, to ignore one's right to informed consent is to assert dominance over them, effectively resulting in a subjugation of one person's freedom under another person's agenda.

We asked for a complete copy of the vaccine insert for the MMR shot at our local Ride Aide pharmacy and were denied! Without parents being able to see inserts and be informed fully about the risks and side effects of vaccines, how can informed decisions be made? It is unconscionable what is being withheld from parents in our state.

Regarding the need for written advice that vaccine exemptions are available in Oregon, we urge you to consider that parents are the best-equipped persons to make medical decisions for their children. Unfortunately, too many cases have been noted when doctors have seemingly intentionally omitted any mention of possible exemptions, and have proceeded to bully parents into making decisions they did not wish to make. Since Oregon is already well above the targeted percentage for vaccination compliance, it should seem reasonable that within our robust vaccination program we would leave room for parents to make choices as they see best, including spreading out vaccines to allay concerns of possible vaccine injury.

Thank you,
Karen and Jake Austin
Grants Pass, Oregon