

Dear Madam Chair Monnes Anderson,

My name is Sara Soltani-Gobet, And I am a constituent of district 17.

I am here today to testify in favor of SB869. I strongly believe parents need to have better informed consent. I am the mother of 3, my oldest who is now a junior in H.S was vaccine injured at the age of 5 Immediately following her kindergarten boosters. I wasn't informed of VAERS or the Injury compensation program until long after the statute of limitations expired. We as parents are left to pick up the pieces in addition to the financial burden of treatments after a vaccine injury, TRUE parental informed consent is a must!

This last February, three of my daughters highschool teachers and her counselor encouraged her to get her Dtap up to date prior to the exclusion day coming up. They reminded her multiple times over the next few weeks, until I rewatched the education module and turned in her exemption form- 2 days prior to "exclusion day".

I'm not exactly sure why a biology, European studies, and stage craft teacher felt it was their duty to encourage my child to get vaccinated, but it is the very reason we need SB869 in place. Any other minor may have felt pressured to comply and would have likely consented. Is this what we want for our kids? Adults bullying them into making medical decisions for themselves-not based on family health history, adverse reactions, or parental consent- Just do it or your going to get kicked out of school? No mention of exemptions. No mention of parents talking with their family doctors.

I had a similar bullying experience with an ER doctor at St.Vincents when I took her to get stitches after falling off her bike. She was 14 at the time, and although I politely declined Dtap for the tetanus portion explaining previous adverse reaction, he was insisting she needed it despite the fact that her wound was open, exposed to oxygen, bleeding, and easily cleaned...there was no chance for anaerobic tetanus to survive in that environment.

I proceeded to ask him why he was scaring her, telling her she would die without a tetanus shot. It takes weeks to mount an immune antibody response from the vaccine, and on the CDC's own website it states that when they did surveillance in a 7 year period between 2001-2008, there were 233 cases of tetanus, and 26 deaths. In the United States with a population over 300 million, that's an average of less than 33 Tetanus cases annually, and an average of less than 4 deaths each year.

My child was at no risk of dying that day from Tetanus, and the ER DR. should have been offering the TIG (tetanus immunoglobulin) but had she been left to make her own medical decisions, may have felt forced into accepting the wrong medical procedure- which is what vaccines are, they are a medical procedure, and they are legally termed "unavoidably unsafe". As her mother I have her best interests at heart, not some random doctor or nurse just blindly following a one-size-fits-all protocol.

The informed consent policy as it stands isn't enough to protect our children. Our kids need our parental consent. I hope you will consider passing SB869.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
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