

Dear Senators Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee

Re: SB 914

Many healthy yet unvaccinated adults are under increasing pressure to give up their right to informed consent (and the right to withhold that consent) for vaccinations, by employers making them, particularly the flu shot, (with low effective rates acknowledged even by the CDC) a condition of employment.

Oregon law ORS 433.416, already provides an employer of a health care worker shall provide to the worker preventive immunization for infectious diseases at no cost to the worker. The law also provides that a worker “**shall not be required as a condition of work to be immunized** under this section, unless such immunization is otherwise required by federal or state law, rule or regulation.” Currently there are no other federal or state law, rule or regulation that mandates such immunization. The legislature saw the wisdom of not mandating those immunizations, even for health care workers, when such mandates would trample on the worker’s right to informed consent and their protected liberty interests.

SB 914 expands this protection against mandates to all workers, not just health care workers. It is a common sense bill that is intended to protect and preserve the right to be free from government mandates of medical procedures for all Oregonian workers, not just health care workers.

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