



March 28, 2017

Kaiser Permanente Opposition to SB 579, 580 and 869.

Members of the Senate Health Care Committee:

Kaiser Permanente urges your no vote on SB 579, 580 and 869. Each of these bills would add cumbersome additional steps to the vaccination informed consent process and create unnecessary burden for clinicians while providing no additional benefit to the patient/parent.

At Kaiser Permanente, we have a robust, collaborative approach to vaccinations. Each time we give a vaccine we discuss the benefits and risks of the vaccines with the patient/parent, we give them the appropriate CDC Vaccine Information Sheet and allow time for them to read it and ask questions. We also ask the patient/parent to sign a consent form prior to administering the vaccines. This process is thorough, transparent, and puts informed decision making in the hands of the patient/parent.

Adding the cumbersome additional steps proposed in the legislation of bills 579, 580, and 869 would not improve this process; rather, it would create an unnecessary burden on the clinician while providing no extra benefit to the patient/parent.

SB 579: Sec. 2(1)(c) and (d) and SB 869: Sec. 2(1)(c) and (d) would require the clinician to:

- make available for review the most recent edition of the Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- provide notice of how to file a petition for a claim pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, including the contact information necessary to file a claim.

This information would not enhance the patient/parent's ability to make an informed decision about a vaccine. The first is an appropriate resource for clinicians, not patient/parents. We should not put patients/parents in the position of having to act as scientists, gathering and analyzing evidence. This information should be synthesized and shared by the clinician and through the CDC Vaccine Information Sheets. The second implies that vaccine injury is a common occurrence, which it most certainly is not. This chilling tactic may discourage patients/parents from vaccinating, a decision based on fear rather than fact.

SB 580: Sec. 2(1)(a) would require the clinician to provide written notice of each vaccination that the child is required to receive as a condition of attending a school or children's facility in this state under ORS 433.267. This creates an assumption that the only vaccines that are relevant and necessary are the ones required for school entry. In fact, there are many important vaccines that are not yet mandatory for schools, but that do provide enormous personal and public health benefits. Parents may be discouraged from giving vaccines that are not explicitly designated for school entry, which would be a disappointing unintended consequence.

There is no disputing the importance of providing thorough information about vaccine benefits and risks; our patients/parents deserve full disclosure. These bills, however, do nothing to enhance this process of informed consent, and indeed create barriers and unwarranted fear.

Respectfully submitted,

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