

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support of SB 580, requiring complete information be provided prior to vaccination. We are parents of two and I am concerned that repeatedly over the years I have been offered vaccines on their behalf without full information as to my right to refuse.

We have selectively vaccinated our children, which I knew was within my rights as a parent in Oregon. However I know of very many families that continued vaccinating their children even after concerns over prior adverse reactions, including Sensory Processing Disorder and severe speech apraxia, because they did not know they had a choice. Repeatedly, they were told by their doctors and schools that they must have their child vaccinated to attend school, day care, Head Start. They were not made aware of their right to refuse unless they asked explicitly.

I also 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 convincing her she did not have a choice. That she would be removed from school, or extracurricular activities; without even fully explaining which vaccines she would be receiving. Countless adolescents are being vaccinated at school though this implied "requirement," often without their parent's, or their doctor's for that matter, knowledge or consent. Vaccines are known to have contraindications, and to expect the average teen to be aware of what their own contraindications might be with regard to any pharmaceutical without their parent's or doctor's oversight is a dangerous supposition. And then to expect them to act in their own best health interests in the face of an authority who is apparently holding their right to education and participation in their community hostage, is unrealistic.

I just need to add: if you don't agree with giving parents and teen children full disclosure on their rights, why not? I am sure each of you considers yourself educated enough to make a decision on the best protocols for your own children, and would expect to be made aware of your rights with regard to any medical intervention; why would you assume others are not equally capable and should not have the same right?

Please protect the health of Oregonians and support SB 580.

Sincerely,

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