

Testimony  
SB 687  
Brittany Ruiz

04/01/2017

First of all, I want to thank the Chairwomen Senator Gelser that despite her heavy legislative schedule, her unwavering focus on the improvement of care for our children, recent reports on DHS she scheduled this hearing. I would also like to thank Vice Chair Sen Olsen who made time to meet with me on this bill and requested a hearing several times. Thank you as well members of the committee for reading/listening to my testimony.

As you may have heard, I became a safety care provider for a mother who's baby was removed from her arms not more than 12 hours after the baby was born by DHS with 4 armed policeman. The reason was because a pediatrician at a Portland hospital was not happy that the mother decline both the Hep B Shot and the Vitamin K at birth. His statement was, "If you don't vaccinate I will call DHS." DHS Caseworker then told the hospital to "give whatever vaccines they wanted to" before even getting a signed judges order. The Hospital decided to not only give the 5lb baby with a broken arm (due to breach delivery) Hep B and Vitamin K but also treated the baby as if she was infected with Hep B and gave her two additional Hep B immunoglobulin shots (not just one). The mother informed them that she was a military baby and had received more vaccines than any other person she knew. The baby was not at risk. In fact, the social worker that came in before the pediatrician said that the mother was a great mother and was okay to be released (medical records prove this).

This story went viral with over 20,000 views on social media within 24 hours. Two attorneys jumped on pro-bono after hearing the story and are still representing this mother today. When the mother was joined back up with the baby after 4 days apart both the baby and the mother cried. Everyone else in the room watching this cried. The foster mother left her a note stating that she would give the baby pain meds because the baby was upset and crying and thought it was the broken arm. The baby did not cry once while she was joined with her mother, would nurse on demand and was the happiest baby I ever saw. It changed me then and there and I knew at that moment I had to change our system.

It took almost two months before the court decided in this mother's favor and DHS decided to drop the case because "the mother was exceptional". Meanwhile the mother and I met US Congresswoman Bonamici and shared her story. Bonamici was floored that this occurred in Oregon by DHS, see photo attached.

The mother while in my care would cry daily and be scared that DHS was still going to come and take her baby. I have remained in touch with her and she continues to complain of nightmares and very scared that she will wake up and her daughter is gone.

Wasted resources: Three court appointed attorneys for this case, 4 safety care providers, baby and mother given OHP Plus by DHS, drivers given to the mother for visitations taking easily 5-6 hours out of their day for this, sent a drug addiction specialist who said the visit was unnecessary and DHS caseworker lied about why visit was necessary, DHS demanded weekly nurse visits. Both DHS drivers said "I don't understand why this family is being treated like this".

Per DHS spokesman, Gene Evans, told OregonLive **“state law and agency policy require child welfare workers to ensure that children in department custody get their shots.”**

We live in an era where parents are truly scared to bring their kids to the Doctor because they don't want to have DHS called because they are deciding to follow a different vaccination schedule than the current, untested CDC schedule. Why does DHS now have a reputation as the Doctor/Nurse henchmen for vaccinations?

Most parents who decide to not vaccinate or delay vaccination have arrived at that decision very carefully either due to other siblings being injured by either the vaccine or the vaccine schedule (now 52 doses by age 6 see photo attached) or researching for hours and hours and came to that decision.

After helping this mom and having many other parents reaching out to me with similar stories I showed up with my kids to my Senator's office and asked to meet with him on something that really affected our family. He had a booked day but sat down with me, heard my story and asked me if I would like to submit legislation to improve this. And here I am today.

I do sincerely believe that DHS will save at least 20% of their funds and resources not following up false claims by adding this small amendment to this bill. We've already heard about the report last week that Senator Gelser blew the whistle on, and the year before which shows that DHS is not following up on real abuse cases or handling things in a timely fashion. This will give them more time, funds and resources to address real abuse issues, not false flags.

I hope with all my heart that you vote for a due pass recommendation. I appreciate your time and you listening to my testimony.

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