

## Rosenberg Corey

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**From:** Doumit Matt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 04, 2017 4:02 PM  
**To:** SHS Exhibits  
**Subject:** FW: testimony for sb687

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**From:** Rachele Bell [mailto:rachelleshultz@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 4, 2017 3:41 PM  
**To:** Doumit Matt <Matt.Doumit@oregonlegislature.gov>  
**Subject:** testimony for sb687

April 4, 2017

Chairwoman Senator Gelser and members of the committee:

Thank you for holding a hearing to include SB 687. I feel this is a very important bill and I am in support of it!

My youngest daughter is now 3 years old. When she was just 2.5 months old it was clear she was sick. It was a Sunday evening and we took her to the emergency room. After a brief examination, the Doctor told us he thought she had pertussis. He asked if she had been vaccinated, and I told him she hadn't yet had her 2 month appointment (which is when the first pertussis vaccine is given). He questioned me about vaccines at birth (only the hepatitis B vaccine is recommended at birth), and my husband—trying to be helpful—interjected that we had researched and chosen not to vaccinate her yet.

The doctor's demeanor immediately changed and he became very hostile. After he left our curtained-off area, we could hear him throughout the emergency room belittling us to nurses, and yelling at our doctor about us on the phone. Our doctor requested that the test for pertussis be conducted, and when I expressed agreement, the emergency room doctor got more upset and told us doing the test would mean we would have the health department and others giving us a call. (As an aside, the test was positive for pertussis. We treated the family with antibiotics and also used high levels of Vitamin C to treat, which I firmly believe kept my baby out of the hospital.)

The whole exchange left us very upset and frightened. Every time I took my daughter to the doctor after that, I was nervous and anxious. I had read and heard stories of doctors threatening to call DHS on families who chose not to vaccinate on schedule, and adding our encounter with the emergency room doctor, it was a very real fear of mine.

A recent report requested by Senator Gelsler showed that DHS left children in homes who shouldn't have been left, and also removed children who shouldn't have been removed. DHS is clearly an overworked agency and there are very real problems to be dealt with. A family choosing to not vaccinate should never be referred to DHS or investigated by DHS. SB 687 would make sure that an already over-extended agency is not forced to deal with an issue they shouldn't be. It would also ensure that parents feel safe with their doctors and care providers, and not have a fear of DHS being called because of a well-researched decision they make.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Rachelle Bell  
Albany, OR