

Rosenberg Corey

From: Doumit Matt
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 1:51 AM
To: SHS Exhibits
Subject: FW: Testimony for SB 687

MATT DOUMIT | Analyst
[Legislative Policy and Research Office](#)

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[Senate Committee on Human Services](#)

From: Sonja Grabel [mailto:sonjagrabel@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 4, 2017 10:24 PM
To: Doumit Matt <Matt.Doumit@oregonlegislature.gov>
Cc: Sen Gelser <Sen.SaraGelser@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen.AlanOlsen@state.or.us;
Sen.MichaelDembrow@state.or.us; Sen Knopp <Sen.TimKnopp@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen MonnesAnderson
<Sen.LaurieMonnesAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Testimony for SB 687

Dear Senator and Senate Committee on Human Services,

My name is Sonja Grabel and I am a resident of Beaverton, OR (District 17.) I am writing in support of this small but important bill. Though it only adds a few words to the law, it has the potential for great impact. WE know that the law is on the side of the parent and that it is not considered abuse to decline vaccines. But, it is apparent that many DHS workers, doctors, and hospital staff do NOT. When DHS is called in these circumstances, the case is typically dismissed after investigation, but the damage is done. Children (often infants) are separated from their parents for days, weeks, or even months causing untold trauma. In addition, it is a gross misuse of limited DHS time and money, which could be used to address the critical problems currently plaguing DHS. It is time to make the law clear, so there is no confusion or misuse.

In addition, I firmly believe that clarifying the law will improve healthcare opportunities for children. Many parents who follow an alternative vaccine schedule fear retaliation (for declining a given vaccine) and harassment and bullying (when attempting to receive other medical care.) There are many stories throughout the country - and right here in Oregon - of DHS being called solely for declination of vaccines. As a result, many families currently AVOID medical care or consider lying to practitioners due to this fear. Personally, this is one reason why I chose not to birth my daughter in a hospital setting. I instead chose a home birth with a midwife - in part to avoid any hassle over the Hep B vaccine routinely given on the first day of life to newborns in the U.S.

Sincerely,
Sonja H. Grabel