

Rosenberg Corey

From: Doumit Matt
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 8:26 AM
To: SHS Exhibits
Subject: FW: in support of SB687

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[Senate Committee on Human Services](#)

From: Paula Bryant-Trerise [mailto:stormqueen@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 8:21 AM
To: 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>
Cc: Doumit Matt <Matt.Doumit@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: in support of SB687

Dear Senators:

I support this bill because it gives clarity to CPS caseworkers and protection for families like mine.

Although many doctors don't acknowledge it, one thing that science has settled is that vaccines, like every other medical procedure, can cause harm. In those cases, like mine, my child would not qualify for the narrow criteria that the Oregon Health Authority recognizes as a valid medical exemption as her adverse event was not anaphylaxis. My daughter was a typically developing child up until her 18 month vaccines, after which she lost all speech, eye contact, gross and fine motor skills, and began growling, hitting herself and chewing on her clothes. She lost all ability to engage in a meaningful way, as our Developmental Pediatrician stated. Obviously our family was devastated as you would expect.

As her parents, we decided that it would be negligent and dangerous to administer any more vaccines to our daughter. We filed a claim in the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. So in order to protect my daughter from further harm, we use the vaccine exemptions allowed us under Oregon law.

We have spent close to a hundred thousand dollars out of pocket in therapies, have researched and successfully treated her horrific Gastrointestinal disorder with dietary changes, hired behavioral therapists to come to our home for years, and even successfully sued the school district and enrolled her at a private school at public expense because that is what was required for her to thrive.

Nevertheless, I received a call from CPS. This was devastating to us and we were ashamed even though we had done nothing wrong. I was terrified for the weeks it took for them to investigate our case. For weeks we lived under the specter of fear that our girl could be taken away from us. Fortunately in our case it was resolved as we had so many teachers, neighbors, and our county social worker who could vouch for us.

I know there are many children who are neglected and sadly need saving from their parents. But we need to make sure that the determining factors used to assess neglect don't ensnare children whose parents are rightfully and lawfully protecting their children from harm.

Her behavior due to her injury makes her a target for reporting to CPS. She sometimes screams and runs from us, she scratches herself raw as you can see on her face, and she steals items from the grocery store unless carefully monitored.

I know firsthand the damage that overzealous public health can do to a family in the name of the greater good. My mother was quarantined for almost a year due to a positive Tb test. She never transmitted TB to anyone as she was not in a highly contagious state. She was put into a state Sanatorium, which was deemed two years later to be unnecessary and shut down. I have three examples within my own family of vaccine injury. All this leads me to distrust of public health. I know from research available that there is a financial incentive for pediatricians to vaccinate according to the CDC schedule. So I am concerned about state incentives that may be incentivizing the removal of children from their homes. I fear that people like me are now afraid to seek medical attention due to the threat of doctors who have been indoctrinated into the idea that refusing a vaccine is negligent. We are setting a dangerous fear-based wheel in motion. This bill will provide reassurance to parents like me that it is safe to take our children to the doctor when needed without risking their loss to a system that can never give the love and care that a family can give to a child like mine.

The language in this bill will prevent mistaken removals and clarify the mission for CPS workers. A recent report by DHS showed the case workers often misapplied or misunderstood state laws defining threats. This bill would aid the caseworkers and save the state money in legal expenses, as you can be sure a parent like me would pursue every means possible to hold the state accountable for its action should my daughter be removed. This bill provides a clean and simple fix to a problem that exists. This will provide a measure of comfort for parents like me who currently fear taking my child to the ER or urgent care due to fear of CPS.

Paula Bryant-Trerise
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