

Chairwoman Senator Gelser  
Vice Chair Alan Olsen and members of the committee

RE: SB687 SUPPORT

04/04/2017

To Whom it May Concern:

In September of last year my wife in a matter of hours agreed to be a care provider for a mother who's daughter was ripped from her arms within hours of being born due to mother's medical decisions for her baby that she made shortly after the baby was born.

What concerned me the most was the list of charges against this mother when she was in our care. I had assumed this mother was incompetent, irresponsible, not providing proper care for the daughter etc. DHS caseworkers leveled many charges at the mother based on less than 1 hour interview with her. All of these charges were then later dropped.

Additionally, the mother in our care before she was joined back up with the baby was religiously pumping milk and handing this over to the DHS caseworker. When we went to pick up the baby all bottles that the mother had pumped (11 total), the most essential breastmilk for that baby was left in a bag and was never turned over to the foster care parent. So, if DHS was truly concerned about the welfare of that child, they would've made arrangements to get that milk to the baby.

Based on my experience, having met the mother and seeing her interaction with the baby and the two weeks she resided in my home, I cannot for the life of me figure out how and why this baby was ever removed from her mother. She was born to be a mother and knew almost instinctively what to do to make sure her milk supply came in, doing kangaroo care, nursing on demand and taking her daughter to frequent Doctors appointments. More importantly the mother also told me all the studies, the books, the information on vaccines and the many hours she spent researching how and when and if she was going to vaccinate her daughter.

With this experience, I supported my wife in getting legislation submitted to amend the definition of abuse to NOT INCLUDE delaying or not vaccinating. I know the decisions my wife and I made for our children were not arrived at overnight. With vaccine injury in our family we had an extra step to take in making sure our own children were not injured. It took many hours of research, discussing this with our doctors and reading books from Doctors, many studies from the CDC and other peer reviewed journals.

With the latest report coming out of the DHS this past week, they could use one less thing to be hassled about and focus on the real abuse going on with our precious children in the state of Oregon. All of the above was wasted man hours by DHS and their attention could've been focused on abuse cases.

Thank you for reading my testimony and thank you for considering/voting a due pass recommendation on SB687 and lets make the child welfare system in Oregon something we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,  
Javier O. Ruiz  
President  
Ruiz Partners INC  
McMinnville Chamber of Commerce member  
Oregon business owner