

Rosenberg Corey

From: Doumit Matt
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 9:16 AM
To: SHS Exhibits
Subject: FW: Testimony in favor of SB 687

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

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE Rm. 453
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1514

[Senate Committee on Human Services](#)

From: Carissa Bonham [mailto:carissamarie@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 9:12 AM
To: Doumit Matt <Matt.Doumit@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: Testimony in favor of SB 687

My name is Carissa Bonham and I live in North Plains. I will be unable to attend the SB 687 hearing in person today so I wish to submit this testimony in writing **in favor of SB 687**.

I have seen both my cousin and a friend bullied needlessly by hospital staff for refusing to vaccinate their newborn babies in the hospital. These are both healthy, stable, lovely women whose only "crime" was wanting to wait on giving the hepatitis B vaccine to their newborns.

When my cousin had her baby seven years ago, she told the nurses that she knew she and her partner were Hep B negative so they wanted to wait on that particular vaccine for their baby and follow up with their pediatrician about it later. She followed all other doctor recommendations and customary interventions and tests for newborns while in the hospital

When it was time to go, a nurse told my cousin she had two choices:

1) She could vaccinate her baby for hepatitis B and go home with her baby without issue.

or

2) The nurse would call child protective services who would come take the baby and place her in foster care, **they would vaccinate her anyway while she was in state custody** and "the courts could sort it out later" regarding when she could have her baby back.

My cousin chose to allow them to vaccinate her baby to avoid having her daughter taken away.

A little less than one year ago, a friend of mine faced a similar threat from the on call doctor caring for her in the hospital after giving birth. Unlike my cousin, she refused to consent to the vaccine and her baby was actually confiscated by DHS workers. After many hours meeting with case workers, lawyers and judges she and her husband were able to regain custody of their baby and the judge agreed the baby never should have been taken away in the first place.

Whether or not you believe hepatitis B vaccines are necessary for newborns, I hope we can agree that no mother should have to make medical decisions for her children under these kinds of threats from health care workers when no actual abuse is taking place! That doctors and nurses are using CPS as their "trump card" to force medical procedures that are not urgent and necessary to immediately save a life is a gross abuse of power and resources and SB687 will put a stop to it.

Given the current crisis in Oregon's child welfare system where workers are overburdened and under resourced, when workers are being called to confiscate children who are not actually being abused, we all lose.

The state loses time and resources that would be best spent intervening on behalf of children who are actually suffering from abuse.

Children lose their sense of safety and security by being needlessly removed from their safe and healthy families. Newborn babies miss out on critical bonding time with their parents.

Moms (especially moms who have just given birth) also lose valuable bonding time and time spent establishing a milk supply for their nursing babies.

Please support Oregon families and Oregon's child welfare system by voting in favor of SB 687.

Sincerely,

Carissa Bonham

10130 NW Chamberlain Place

North Plains, OR 97133