

Dear Senators Gelser and Members of the Committee:

Re: SB 687

I am an attorney in Portland, Oregon and I consult with individuals concerning their vaccine rights. I am also co-Chair of Oregonians for Medical Freedom, a nonpartisan grass roots organization dedicated to preserving a patient and parent's right to informed consent for any and all medical procedures, including vaccinations.

I was just a little over 8 months old when President Dwight Eisenhower gave a prophetic, farewell speech to the American people, as President John F. Kennedy was about to take office. That speech is famous because of Eisenhower's warning to the American people to remain knowledgeable and alert, to monitor potential abuses of power by the military-industrial complex. His concern was that this power could endanger our liberties.

Referencing the military industrial complex, Eisenhower warned, "we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence" and that "The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist." He also stated, "the power of money is ever present and is gravely to be regarded. "

Most noteworthy for today's hearing, was his warning to be alert to "the danger that public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific technological elite."

Eisenhower's warnings are no less important today than when he spoke them 56 years ago, but the influence of the military industrial complex has been vastly overshadowed by the influences of the medical industrial complex. In our everyday lives, everywhere you turn, you see and hear the influence of the medical industrial complex, from the numerous print ads to the seemingly endless commercials for pharmaceutical products. Walk into any Safeway store

with a pharmacy, and you can save 10% on your grocery bill if you get a flu shot that day. Insurance companies like Blue Cross, will give doctors a \$400 annual bonus for each patient under two, if a certain percentage of patients are “fully vaccinated.” For a pediatrician with just 200 patients, that is an extra \$80,000/year. It is an all or nothing bonus, which is why many parents who choose not to vaccinate are being “fired by their doctors” and forced to seek care elsewhere.

Most significant though, is the influence of the literal thousands of paid lobbyists for the pharmaceutical industries that descended on Capitol Hill last fall in a blitzkrieg, to assure passage of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act. Lobbyists for the pharmaceutical industry outspend lobbyists for every other industry, including energy industries and military defense industries.

Regarding SB 687, just last year an article was published in the Journal of Pediatrics, written by three doctors urging a modification in medical ethics. The article states that if doctors are unable to essentially bully, coerce, or harass parents into vaccinating their children after repeated attempts to get them to comply, then a doctor has a “strict legal obligation to report child neglect to the local child health protective services agency.”

This is an attempt, by that powerful medical industrial complex, to change medical ethics away from the humanitarian foundation that has existed since the Ancient Hippocratic Oath was created, to a utilitarian view, for the “greater good of society.” That viewpoint was soundly rejected by the vast number of nations in the world that have adopted the Nuremberg Code and most recently, the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights. This Declaration was adopted by all 193 countries participating in the United Nations, including the United States. Article 6 of the Declaration states that individuals must give “prior, free and

informed consent” to “any preventative, diagnostic, and therapeutic medical intervention.”

The sole interests of science or society (think of the flawed herd immunity theory argument), is not more important than the rights of the individual.

Even prior to this Journal article being distributed, parents throughout the country and in Oregon have been and are being bullied, harassed, and threatened by their pediatricians with the removal of their children by DHS or CPS if they do not submit to immediate vaccination of their children. Not only are they being harassed by their doctors, but DHS in this state and others, are wrongfully threatening parents with child abuse if they do not vaccinate their children, despite the parents' right to claim either a religious or philosophical exemption to the vaccines.

Last summer, a woman from Grants Pass, Oregon was referred to DHS by her doctor because she declined to give her newborn baby a hepatitis B shot prior to being discharged from the hospital. That vaccine, depending upon an infant's body size, contains 10 to 15 times the amount of aluminum, a known neurotoxin, the FDA states is safe to be ingested. DHS came to her home and opened an investigation. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the mother was called into the DHS office and told that she had two weeks to vaccinate her child and the caseworker implied the baby would be taken away for child abuse if she did not comply. She was told that waiting a year to vaccinate her child, which is what she wanted to do, was unacceptable.

In February, James Meehan, a surgeon in Oklahoma posted his story on social media about getting a tearful phone call from his own daughter, who was being bullied and harassed at her first well baby visit, because she too had declined the Hepatitis B vaccine at the hospital. He stated, “What happened in that pediatric clinic to my daughter happens to parents every

day in Tulsa, in Oklahoma, and in America. It's unethical, unprofessional, and needs to be exposed for the abuse that it represents.”

That same month, I consulted with a woman in Florida who was under investigation by their child protective services for what amounted to be a false accusation. Prior to closing the case, the caseworker demanded to see the immunization records for her 3-month-old daughter. She was told that not vaccinating is a big deal and a new case would have to be opened regarding medical neglect.

Last Fall in Portland, a 31-year-old pregnant mother got into a dispute with doctors attending to her labor, delivery and post-partum care. She wanted a natural birth and the least amount of medical procedures as possible, having avoided ultrasounds throughout her pregnancy, and wanting no vitamin K injection and especially, no vaccines whatsoever. Despite the hospital social worker's report that everything was appropriate to discharge the baby to the mother, her only concern being the lack of a child seat which was being provided for, DHS was called twelve hours after birth as a result of a doctor's report and took temporary custody of the baby. Within 20 minutes, prior to any court hearing, the baby was given not only the vitamin K injection and Hepatitis B vaccine, but immunoglobulin injections as if she was already infected with Hepatitis B.

A 2012 Article that was republished in the Vaxtruth Blog, had a headline, “Indiana Doctor Tells Mom: “Be Compliant! Vaccinate or I’ll call CPS!”

Oregon parents need to be protected from the abuse of power by the medical industrial complex. The current Oregon law defines child neglect to include the failure to provide medical care. To protect the civil rights of Oregonians, it is necessary and proper that the definition

should be amended to state the refusal or delaying of vaccination, by itself alone, does not constitute child neglect.

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