

April 5, 2017

Dear Senator Gelser and Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

Thank you for your time. I am here today in support of SB 687.

I became a mother three years ago when my son was born. Until that moment I had not fully understood the great joy but also responsibility of what it means to be a parent. It means making hard choices. It means figuring out what kind of mother I want to be and how I want to guide my child through this life so that one day he can go off on his own, make a way for himself and ultimately be productive member of society. This is not something I take lightly. My decisions on my family's medical choices should be made by my husband and myself for what we choose is right for us. We should not live in fear that our medical choices will put our family in jeopardy, just because we might want to decline or delay a medical procedure such as vaccines.

In Oregon we have the option to non-medical exemptions for our children to attend school. Delaying and/or declining a vaccination should not be a reason for someone to have CPS called on them and if a choice is made under duress of that threat then they have not given true informed consent. Where there is risk there must be a choice. Just like any other medical procedure, there must be informed consent. My body, my choice. My children, my responsibility, my choice. Making this choice is not child abuse and this bill will clear up any question otherwise. I respectfully ask you to vote yes on SB 687.

Thank you,

Jordan Ohrt
Resident of Salem, OR
Oregon Realtor
Mother of 2