

Dear Senators Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee

Re: HB 2644

My name is Robert Snee and I am an attorney in Portland, Oregon I am also co-Chair of Oregonians for Medical Freedom, a nonpartisan grass roots organization of Oregonians who believe people and parents have a fundamental right to make informed medical decisions free from government mandates.

HB 2644 represents yet another government mandate and now, as a result of the amendment adopted by the house, which takes the decision-making process out of the hands of you, our elected representatives, passes the buck to unelected bureaucrats in the Oregon Health Authority, and instructs them to define a best medical practice for all Oregon newborns. Worse than that, though, the bill takes the decision-making process out of the hands of the parents and their doctor, those who should be most familiar with their medical history and needs.

If our legislators believe it is proper to mandate this, I should ask what else are we leaving out of government imposed mandates? According to prior testimony in the house in favor of this bill, since 1961, the American Academy of Pediatrics has recommended that all newborns receive a single dose of intramuscular vitamin K. Just in April last year, in the Journal "Pediatrics," published by the AAP, there was an article stating that promoting breast-feeding as "the natural way to feed babies" should be discouraged because it may lead to dangerous views on vaccination. The CDC has also released a paper arguing that breast feeding should be delayed to not interfere with the efficacy of the rotavirus vaccine. Perhaps we should have a mandate outlawing breastfeeding for several months after the rotavirus vaccine is given as a best practice to increase the efficacy of the vaccine?

I ask that you consider this bill, look to who the bill stands to benefit, look to who it impacts, and look to who is opposed to the bill. We are a nation of people, not of corporations. Liberty loses out in the corporate crony state.

As you consider whether this bill would be making good law, and it clearly does not, be mindful of this quote from Thomas Jefferson:

“But rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others. I do not add “within the limits of the law” because law is often but the tyrant’s will, and always so when it violates the rights of an individual.”

I urge this committee to reject HB 2644 as unnecessary and tyrannical.

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