

Date: 19 February 2017

To: House Committee on Health Care
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Subj: HB 2644, Provides that administration of vitamin K to newborn infants must be by injection

Chairman Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

My name is Darcy Rapoza and I live in Salem. I am writing to formally oppose HB 2644.

I am unclear on the intent behind this bill. Why is this bill attempting to take choice away from Oregon parents when it comes to Vitamin K administration, by removing an oral option and mandating injection?

Are you aware that the Vitamin K shot carries a black box warning on the package insert? The black box warning is designed to call attention to serious or life-threatening risks. From <http://reference.medscape.com/drug/vitamin-k-mephyton-vitamin-k1-phytonadione-344424#5> :

Vitamin K1 (phytonadione)

Black Box Warnings

Severe reactions, including fatalities, have occurred during and immediately after IV administration, even when precautions have been taken with proper dilution and avoidance of rapid infusion.

Severe reactions also reported after IM (*intramuscular*) administration; typically, these severe reactions involve hypersensitivity or anaphylaxis and include shock and cardiac or respiratory arrest. (*emphasis added*)

IV/IM reactions may occur with first dose (no prior exposure to phytonadione)
Restrict use of IV/IM routes to situations where SC (*subcutaneous*) administration is not feasible and serious risk involved is considered justified.

The injection also may produce hyperbilirubinemia in premature neonates.

I object to the state mandating an injection, especially one that carries a FDA black box warning, with the only exemption provided being a religious exemption. Parents should not have a safer oral option removed as a choice, and they should not be forced to claim a religious exemption to opt out of Vitamin K administration. Parents should be offered the Vitamin K, with true informed consent, which includes informing them of the benefits AND risks. Armed with all the information, parents should then be able to decline the Vitamin K for any reason, be it religious or philosophical.

I urge a NO vote on this unnecessary bill that removes medical freedom from Oregonians.

Respectfully,

Darcy Rapoza
Salem