

Dear Chairwoman Monnes Anderson & Members of the Senate Health Committee;

My name is Robert Snee, I am an attorney, father of 2, and a constituent of Senate District 24. I am testifying today in support of SB649.

There are a number of laws, both state and federal that require consumers be given access to product information, be the durable consumer products, food and medications. With regard to medications, the information found on package inserts is required for a manufacturer to market, advertise, and promote a medication, including vaccines.

However, unlike over the counter medications and other prescription drugs, which include the patient package insert when the medication is provided to the consumer, vaccines are either administered at a medical providers office or a pharmacy, and rarely is the patient or consumer given access to the package insert, information which is legally required to accompany the vaccine. The purpose of each insert is to inform the consumer of the benefits and risks of taking the medication. The one-page, Vaccine Information Sheet required by the CDC, is a poor and inadequate substitute for the multiple pages of pertinent information found on the package inserts. Unfortunately, in many instances, doctors are reluctant to provide the package inserts for vaccines to their patients. I've had many people tell me not only did their doctor refuse to give them the package insert, but their doctor has gone so far as to say, incorrectly, that it is illegal for them to do so.

Consumers deserve access to full and complete information about the products they consume, especially including vaccines. Every medication, including vaccines, has some risks. Being able to know what those risks are, no matter how slight, puts parents and consumers in a better position to react and respond if that one in a million risk becomes a reality for them. I urge you to support SB649.

Robert M. Snee
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