

OREGON COALITION OF LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS

February 18, 2019
Senate Health Care Committee
Testimony in Opposition to SB 649

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of Senate Health Care Committee:

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) represents the 33 local public health authorities across Oregon who work to prevent the spread of disease, promote health and protect Oregonians every day in local communities. The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials opposes SB 649 and urges you to take no action of this bill.

Vaccines are safe and effective.

Every person receiving a vaccine is already required by federal law to receive a Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). These VIS statements are developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and inform vaccine recipients, or their parents, the benefits and risks of receiving a vaccine. The VIS statements have been translated in 40 different languages and there is specific federal law establishing criteria for content, information, and process for developing these statements.

SB 649 is unnecessary because it requires additional information beyond the VIS that could create confusion as to the safety and effectiveness of vaccines.

In addition, the requirement that the additional vaccine information must be provided to parents or guardians of anyone under 18 is in conflict with current law (ORS 109.640) allowing those 15 and over to consent to their own medical treatment. Teens should absolutely have the right to identify their own needed medical treatment.

CLHO urges the committee to take no action on this bill.

Thank you,
Morgan Cowling, MPA
Executive Director
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