

## REGARDING CENSORSHIP, ABUSE, DISCRIMINATION, HATE CRIMES, AND DEATH THREATS TO VACCINE INJURED FAMILIES

During Thursday's hearing, one speaker mentioned that agencies are reluctant to post pro-vaccine articles or stances because of "death threats" and "flaming" that occur in the posts. I wanted to provide balance on this subject. Firstly, that no such thing is actually happening to those agencies (a constituent disagreeing with a legislator is not "flaming"); and secondly, that it is actually the other way around.

Vaccine injured **families are afraid to speak up** about their injuries because of the social stigma that accompanies "coming out" as someone who questions vaccine safety. For example, Representative Mitch Greenlick, in his interview with Willamette Week, stated:

**"There's a growing number of people who believe vaccinations are harmful rather than the lifesavers they are," he says. "It's roughly the same number of people who believe the earth's flat." --Representative Mitch Greenlick**

(Source: Willamette Week, "An Oregon Lawmaker Wants To Repeal Personal Vaccine Exemptions As Measles Outbreak Grows")

How Representative Greenlick can be allowed to continue to be involved with this bill after saying such a thing is beyond me.

Vaccine injured families are labeled as stupid, morons, child abusers, anti-science, pro-disease, baby killers, and a whole host of other nasty things. Even the word "antivaxxer" is not only misleading and incorrect--but meant to be divisive and to shut down logical discourse. **They receive death threats regularly**, including people **wishing for the deaths of their children**, many of whom were vaccinated and sustained a vaccine injury.

I personally was told by someone I thought was a friend that **"those kids aren't vaccine injured, they're just retarded, like their parents."** I've also been told by people that they hope someone kills us all when we organize and go to rallies. **The fear and trepidation of even showing up at a hearing to support our own rights as citizens cannot be understated--we literally fear for our lives.**

It's a common sentiment that the unvaccinated and the vaccine injured should be abused and killed, or simply taken from their parents, who should then be shot to death. Others wish for us to be rounded up and put onto an island where we can then be "conveniently eliminated."

Being vaccine injured is a helpless state--an oppressed state. Not only does the general public deny the injuries (even though they are listed as side effects on all vaccine inserts), but they constantly berate, abuse, and discriminate against us. We are asked to stay out of businesses, playgroups, and doctor's offices. **We are threatened with exposure so that others can more easily target us with violence, hate, and abuse.**

We personally keep our son's vaccine injury secret, as opening up about our struggle to receive adequate compensation for it incites threats of violence towards our family, including threats to find and kill us. All this, for simply seeking restitution for an injury. It's unconscionable.

**Passing HB 3063 will only add fuel to this hate.** It will incite more violent words, and possibly violent action. Protecting a parent's right to choose will help to block this flow of abuse and discrimination from gaining more momentum. More importantly, it will give parents a legal foothold when they do begin experiencing violent acts of hate, as I suspect they will in the future.

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