

Chair Salinas and members of the committee,

My name is Jennifer Allen from Portland, Oregon and I am providing my written testimony in opposition to HB 2220. My sister Janey died from an allergic reaction to the MMR vaccine.

Dentists have limited access to historical medical information, family history, and have limited resources in the rare case of an adverse reaction. My sister experienced an almost instantaneous allergic reaction to the MMR vaccine and was treated in her pediatrician's office immediately. The staff knew the signs of the reaction and started proactive measures within minutes. 5 nurses and the pediatrician were tasked with providing life prolonging measures for my sister until the ambulance arrived. Unfortunately, these measures were not enough, and she died in the hospital. A dentist might not have the in-depth expertise to recognize these symptoms and might not be able to treat them appropriately. Instead, there would be a significant wait time until emergency officials arrive with transport to an emergency room. A dentist will not have properly trained staff on hand at all times to handle an adverse reaction such as my sister's.

When I get my teeth cleaned every 6 months I spend a vast majority of my time with the dental technician. Then, at the end when the technician has cleaned my teeth the dentist pops in to look over the work the technician has done and says, "Looks good....see you in 6 months". Over the course of the year (2 appointments) I spend at most 10 minutes with my dentist. That is inadequate time for my dentist to know my personal health needs and family history.

Will a dentist refuse to care for patients that refuse vaccines as many pediatricians do against the advice of the American Academy of Pediatrics?

What life saving medications and/or staff will be required at every dentist's office in Oregon in the event of an adverse vaccine reaction?

There are many options for those that wish to vaccinate, even for those without health insurance. Pediatricians, family physicians, and pharmacists offer access to vaccinations. Public schools offer free vaccinations at school health clinics while community health clinics offer the same services and the health department offers free or low-cost vaccination clinics. There is no shortage of medical professionals that are willing to vaccinate someone regardless of cost to the patient.

The reason I go to a dentist's office for my dental care is because of their expertise in the field. I see an OB/GYN because of their specialty with female medical needs and screenings. I go to my family physician for routine screenings and appointments because of their familiarity with my medical history and the personalized medical needs that I alone require. Vaccinations are not one size fits all and cannot be applied uniformly to every person. Health care is not a one stop shop.

Please vote no on HB 2220.

Most Respectfully,

Jennifer Allen