

OREGONIANS FOR MEDICAL FREEDOM

February 28, 2021

Chair Representative Rachel Prusak
900 Court St. NE, H-489
Salem, Oregon 97301
House Health Care Committee

Good afternoon Chair Prusak, and members of the committee, my name is Nicole De Graff and I am the Executive Director for Oregonians for Medical Freedom, a grassroots organization representing thousands of medical professionals, educators, citizens and parents across the state who are concerned with upholding informed consent in all medical practice and procedures and I am here today representing this organization and myself as a private citizen in opposition to HB 2359 as written. Oregonians for Medical Freedom values informed consent and works to protect those rights for all Oregonians. The intent of the bill may be to create better communication for minorities in healthcare, for greater outcomes, but the requirement for providers to ensure deaf and spoken interpreters be vaccinated with the CDC recommended vaccines, crosses the line of informed consent by imposing mandatory vaccinations as a condition of employment for health care interpreters.

This will set public trust backwards for the BIPOC community.

HB 2359 creates the impression that this effort will protect access to communication for all patients but this bill needs to be revised to remove Section 1) (6). As it is currently written, HB 2359 includes a requirement for health care interpreters to be vaccinated (and tested) per the CDC recommendations without provisions to decline. We oppose any and all legislation that would eliminate the right to decline.

Please vote No on HB2359 as it is written and remove this section accordingly.

Kind Regards,

Nicole De Graff
Executive Director

