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Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 11:23 AM

To: Sen Roblan; Sen Kruse; Sen Knopp; Sen Hass; Sen Gelsner; Sen Beyer; Sen Baertschiger

Subject: SB 895-5 (Work session 4-16-15)

Dear Senator Roblan and members of the Education Committee:

As you may recall, I am a director of Oregonians for Medical Freedom, a coalition of 4,000 Oregonians uniting to preserve our medical freedom and right to informed consent. I testified before you last week in opposition to -2/3 amendments to SB 895.

It is our understanding that during the work session this afternoon, the committee will be considering a -5 amendment.

While I suspect that you have heard from several members of our coalition expressing their concerns about various provisions in the new amendment, I want to focus on one specific section which, if it becomes law, will create a burden upon and infringe on the religious liberties of the parents of 32,000 Oregonian children, who have previously valid religious exemptions to vaccines on file with their schools.

Section 4 would repeal section 4 of Chapter 516, Oregon Laws 2013, otherwise known during that legislative session as SB132. At that time, the proponents of SB 132 argued that although the bill specifically eliminated the religious exemption for vaccines, it protected and grandfathered in the rights of those who had a religious exemption previously on file. Because SB 132 eliminated the specific religious exemption, the presence of the grandfather clause protecting the rights of those previously filed religious exemptions, made the acceptance of the bill more palatable.

The clause providing this protection is the very clause that -5 seeks to repeal. Prior to the passage of SB 132, the only non-medical exemption that existed in the state of Oregon was a religious exemption and according to OHA statistics, there were 32,000 exemptions on file as of 2013.

If SB 895 -5 becomes law in Oregon, it will require the parents holding the 32, 000 previously filed exemptions to comply with SB 132 by either getting a signature from a doctor that they have been educated on the risks and benefits of vaccines, or by spending the time to obtain a certificate by completing the online education module created by SB 132. Either alternative imposes a burden upon and clearly interferes with the religious rights of Oregonians protected under Article 1, Section 3 of the Oregon Constitution.

For this and many other reasons expressed to you by others in our coalition, I ask that you vote in opposition to SB 895. It just isn't good law.

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