



Dear Chair Mones Anderson and Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

Oregonians for Medical Freedom is a grassroots coalition of citizens, medical professionals, educators and parents with a mission to protect the civil liberties and rights of all Oregonians and advocate for full informed consent for all medical interventions and services.

Oregonians for Medical Freedom would like to testify with a NEUTRAL stance on this bill, SB 526, as it is presented today, Monday January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, which reads as a bill to request a *study* of Universal Home Visitation for mothers and families with newborn children and to evaluate the results of this study. We do however, have a few clarifying questions and concerns regarding this program if it were to be implemented.

Our questions are as follows:

- 1) If this bill (study) passes, does the full program need to go through the legislative process to be rolled out and implemented or can it bypass the legislative process and move forward by other means?
- 2) Has further documentation of what the program entails been released? This Slide Presentation prepared by OHA Best Beginnings Committee meeting in November of this year details the concept of the Universal Home Visiting program <https://oregonearlylearning.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/PDF-UHV-for-Best-Beginnings.pdf>

On slide 5 of this presentation it states:

“Proposal for Oregon • Implement Universal Home Visiting (Family Connects model) through Local Public Health Authorities – Nurse Home Visitor Workforce – Targeted Case Management (TCM) State Plan Amendment (SPA) – Mandate to coordinate prevention and health promotion programs and services”The Universal Home visiting program is being marketed as an optional program to support new parents however, nowhere in this particular presentation does it refer to any optional part of the program however it does mention mandating in this slide presentation.

- 3) Therefore, if the program is intended to be optional what safeguards are in place to make this program fully "opt in" with a written opt in and not an opt out. And what is written in to the program to ensure that families who decline the visitation are not bullied, coerced or threatened with loss of state provided services or flagged for DHS follow up for denying consent for the home visiting services being offered? And is there anything written in to the program to prevent it from starting as optional and changing to mandatory? Does that require legislative approval or is that at the discretion of a state agency?

Providing new mothers and families with the support they desire is a noble cause. Making sure they desire the support they are getting is the key.

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