

Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Linthicum, and members of the committee,

My name is Paula Bryant-Trerise. Thank you for hearing from the public on a matter which touches the lives of every citizen in Oregon. SB649 provides that a recipient of a vaccine has access to pertinent information regarding that vaccine. It does not prevent a minor 15 years or older from accessing vaccines themselves and does not conflict with existing law allowing the minor to consent. Informed consent is a pillar of ethical medical and Public Health practice.

In contrast to previous decades, patients now desire a more collaborative approach with their healthcare provider and are more confident when a reciprocal relationship exists between them. To be afraid of patients having full knowledge is to return to the less collaborative, more authoritarian approach.

While some professionals may feel that information provided in these materials is too cumbersome and difficult for even healthcare professionals to understand, I have found the opposite to be true. They are written in plain, easy to understand language. I can think of no reasonable reason why vaccines should not be treated like any other pharmaceutical product with regard to patient information.

I personally know a situation where a child in a family received a varicella vaccine and then the baby who was too young to receive it developed a varicella-like rash. I sent the parents information from the package, and the parents decided to hold off on visiting a friend with a severely compromised immune system because of the remote possibility of transmission. Although some of this information can be found on the VIS, the package insert provides more complete information, such as the recommended amount of time to avoid contact with immune deficient people. Without the package insert, people may go to unreliable sources of information.

We can all learn from each other. At first it may be confusing to both patients and providers; however, over time the questions prompted by patients may provide opportunity for doctors to be more aware of contraindications for their individual patients and thereby promote confidence to patients that they are regarded as partners in their own health care decisions.

I strongly support this Bill and encourage you to do the same.

Thank you

Paula Bryant-Trerise