

2/28/19

To the legislature:

What I'd like to really emphasize here is that vaccines cannot be viewed as a one size fits all type of medicine. All it takes is to see one person respond badly to a vaccine to understand there are risks involved with vaccination and that there are certain factors, such as genetics - that the scientific community has not clearly identified - that are playing a role in these bad outcomes. And because of this, I take the time to counsel my patients and discuss the possible adverse outcomes, listed in the vaccine insert while also considering what I know about their personal medical history, before administering a vaccine. This process is called **informed consent** and is required before any medical procedure. Will I need to have these conversations with my patients if this bill passes? Because that's what you're doing right? **Taking away informed consent.**

I am in a unique position, owning a family medical practice and birth center, wherein I get to deliver babies and care for them throughout childhood. I see many family **units**, sometimes even cousins and extended family members. Caring for families this way allows me the benefit of seeing how family history, previous medical history and social circumstances all interplay in the health of a child. These details often lead to a delayed vaccination schedule for some of my patients, but not so delayed that they're not caught up by the time they enter kindergarten.

I have a very healthy pediatric population in my practice. One that is built on trust, open communication and thorough discourse between me and my patients. We need to be able to talk about why vaccines cause grave harm to some children and figure out a way to make them safe for all kids. But we can't have that conversation until we can recognize that sometimes they actually **do** harm certain members of the population they are meant to protect. Mandating a liability-free medical product that has not undergone proper safety studies makes this impossible.

I cannot imagine how the health of my families would suffer if this bill passes. I took the Hippocratic Oath to first do no harm, and I will stand by that as long as I'm practicing medicine. Please don't infringe upon the doctor-patient relationship in this way. Please don't take away a parent's right to choose

Leslie Hamlett, ND