

All,

To whom it may concern, I am writing in opposition of Senator Helt's amendment to the bill. It will be a fiasco to enforce. Is the plan to ask for vaccination records for every child attending a school event? Also the time frames do not adequately allow for small children on the cusp of kindergarten to get fully vaccinated in time for school to start. It still fails to address the underlying root cause which is people bringing in the diseases from foreign countries. Are you willing to ban any person who's been overseas from school functions within 30 days of return from a country that has diseases?

Overall, I oppose this bill on many philosophical issues with regards to personal freedoms, corporate welfare, and an underlying issue of what rights are we going to give up next?

The most fundamental issues I have with this bill though is what is the benefit? I've asked this question numerous times and get hypothetical answers and what if's based on fear, but no concrete defensible answer. I.E, in exchange for 31,500 students educational rights that their parents taxes support, we're going to save XXX amount of lives. Instead it's all hyperbole based on hypothetical fears. Yes some kids go sick in rural SW Washington, but it was an isolated incident in which no one died and the kids who got sick and recovered and from most reports appear to be fine. Beyond that it's a statistical anomaly that has been going on since 2000 when measles was declared "eradicated form the US". for In the heyday of the measles in the US, the vast majority of people faced no real side effects. Am I advocating for everyone to get the measles, absolutely not. What I am saying is that the fear is unfounded based on recent history.

There is a price for freedom whether it be kids getting hurt in motorcycle accidents, people having the freedom to eat fast food, drink too much alcohol, smoke around their kids and others, go rock climbing, lighting fireworks, etc. The list is nearly endless of behaviors that pose a risk to both the participant and others that we condone as a society. Why is this so much different? When the people who are making the choice to not vaccinate are doing it for much more personal reasons than the above mentioned risky behaviors. People choose not to vaccinate due to their child having an adverse reaction in a child (my case), religious beliefs (some vaccines contain gelatin which is made from pork and is a taboo for Muslims and Jews), or deeply seated personal beliefs with regards to medicine. In addition, many of these people have done the research and while not opposed to vaccination feel the risk for inoculating a baby for a STD at birth (Hep B) is not worth the risk (if you live a healthy lifestyle, the risk is near absolute 0) in their case or to skip others based on a risk profile.

What I find both interesting and hypocritical is the one of the staunchest supporters of this bill, the Oregon Nurses Association, has fought against mandatory vaccinations for its members based on their personal rights. Why is it okay to force a children, which as a general rule have very low probability of coming in contact with the Measles or other infectious diseases, but allowing the personal on the frontline with the highest possibility of contact the option opt out based on their personal convictions. (while the links below deal with the flu, its listed on the ONA page that the option is there for all vaccinations and should not be identified)

<https://www.aft.org/news/oregon-nurses-take-stand-against-flu-vaccination-policy>

<https://www.oregonrn.org/page/464>

As you look to vote on this bill, I am asking you to ask yourself 2 questions?

1. How many lives will this save to justify the exclusion of thousands from their education?
2. What medical choices going forward are you willing to give up to the state based on coercion?
Are you okay with mandatory abortions of unborn children with genetic defects? Are you okay with mandated vaccines for all adults tied to your driver's license etc.?

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Ryan Sexton