

Dear Legislators,

My name is Anne Crump. I am a mother to two daughters and I am pregnant with my third child. I am a registered nurse with two bachelors degrees, I have worked in the intensive care unit and now work in primary care. I am a resident of Marion County, and registered voter. During my nursing education at OHSU I participated in a year long honors research program and I graduated with a 4.0. I bring this point up only to tell you that I am a well informed parent who understands research. Not all parents who choose alternative or delayed vaccination schedules are ignorant “anti-vaxers” as labeled by social media. I work with multiple nurses, including pediatric nurses, who choose alternative vaccination schedules for their children. There are many reasons why we as parents choose to delay or forgo certain vaccines. There are medical professionals who have concerns about vaccine safety, however the stigma is so heavy in our profession it is difficult to come forward. I educate my patients and vaccinate patients on a daily basis, vaccines are a wonderful medical advancement, AND yet there are still some safety concerns regarding our children. One simple one for me is that while vaccines are generally considered safe, they do not undergo the same research and clinical trials required for medications before being approved by the FDA. We are also adding more and more vaccines to our childhood immunization schedule assuming it is in the best interest of our children, however we do not study these combination of vaccines when given together. I can’t imagine as adult getting up to 5 Deep muscle injections at one time, let alone a baby less than 30 pounds? Where is the common sense in that? If parents wish to do that then that is their decision, I prefer to prioritize and spread out these injections. The study of children and pregnant women is quite difficult due to ethics, however I do not believe that justifies assuming more and more vaccines is necessarily safe or without consequence. How many years did it take the medical profession to realize that acetaminophen doses were too high and toxic to the liver? Or that Mercury is in fact neurotoxic? Aluminum is a toxic metal, the dose may or may not be of consequence but there is little to no research on the absorption rate from Intramuscular vaccines. Just because aluminum is present in the environment and our food does not make it safe for injections this argument has many faults. I am also told as a pregnant woman to avoid mercury from tuna, yet I should get the flu shot which contains mercury and inject it into my muscle tissue to be absorbed into my blood stream. Maybe the benefit outweighs the risks for some patients, which I respect, but for me a healthy woman I choose to decline which is my right to help protect my developing fetus... I bring about these points simply because I am trying to articulate that as patients and parents of children we should have choices about what is put into our body. I also acknowledge that there are serious public health concerns here. However, We do not force medications on patients with heart disease even though their treatment will cost thousands of dollars, we do not force people to stop smoking or refuse care to drug addicts when it costs our medical system millions. We are a free country and vaccines should not be forced. We do not force vaccines on the elderly or any other age population, how can we justify forcing children? I believe that when we as parents delay or forgo vaccines we are responsible for that decision, that is why education is paramount. Increase education, fund research, fight for safety and protect our children & parental rights.

Please fight for my right as a parent to make decisions for my children. Require education please, but please respect my rights and autonomy.

Sincerely,
Anne Crump

Sent from my iPhone