

As a mother of three I support SB 649 and full access and informed consent for all medications and vaccines. I have recently returned to college to study Public Health and Nursing. In my first class back I learned about the Ethics of informed consent in health care. Communication errors are one of the top seven reasons for medical malpractice lawsuits. Consumers rely on transparency and complete risk and benefit information in order to make a decision. It instills confidence and creates a trusting relationship.

Contrast that knowledge with my experience 12 years previously and lack of access to information. I took my newborn in for his first well check where his pediatrician told us it was time for a round of nine vaccines. I wasn't necessarily opposed to them but as with anything I'd had to make a decision on as a new parent, I wanted more information. We had researched and planned for everything up to that point. We researched and bought two car seats to trial. When I read about recalls on a specific brand we opted for a safer carseat. We researched circumcision. We researched and read the labels of baby formulas. Back then, we were told Tylenol was safe for babies, today it's not recommended for general use in babies.

When I asked the doctor for package information her mood soured and she refused. I asked again, explaining that I simply wanted to know what was in vaccines. Then she stormed out and returned several minutes later in a worse mood and flung the paper insert down on the table. Then she left. There was no transparency or respect. Any trust that had begun at the hospital was broken. I felt rushed into a decision and though we did get my son vaccinated we left her practice.

Conversely, as an adult when I recently had a minor procedure I was required to have an appointment prior to, where my provider gave me full access to anything I requested. We discussed the risks and benefits and what to expect on the day. I wasn't treated badly when I asked for more information. I felt respected and reassured. Even though I was nervous, the thorough communication and detailed paperwork helped me decide to continue on.

There needs to be more trust and discussion between providers and parents in this area.

Those in opposition will tell you there is little time and it would burden providers. I beg to differ. I have experienced both situations and the time it took for my doctor to explain things properly took no more time than it had for that bad first doctor to argue with me, leave and throw down an insert at me. Making information available as well as having it be complete information is what this bill will remedy. In an age where everything is digitized, this bill will make it easier to access the insert.

Those in opposition will tell you that even though a parent is told they can request it, it's not really for the general public. I beg to differ. It is more than just studies and how to properly store vaccines. The package insert is precisely for the lay person as it contains pertinent information. In an age where walk up and drive through clinics offer quick vaccines, parents/people need to be their own best advocate.

The VIS statement that was handed to me by the nurse after the vaccines were already administered was not complete. For example the MMR package insert contains more information about

contraindications. One such detail is that, post pubertal females having a high risk of arthritis/arthralgia.

The VIS also doesn't include the fact that those with a family history of seizures should not have the vaccine. Yet the package insert does.

Please vote in Favor of SB 649.

Kind Regards,

Nicole De Graff

Springfield, Oregon