

Dear Members of the Children's Committee,

I am not sure what this hearing is about, there is no bill. What is the emergency? Why are you bypassing the legislative process for a hypothetical threat in a partisan informational hearing with experts we came to see last March for the vaccine forum? The experts cancelled last minute. Why didn't the experts come then? How many people have died of measles in CT? How many have died in CT from opioid overdoses? The real emergency is opioids, not measles. The irony is that we can all agree that the pharmaceutical industry is at fault for the opioid crisis, yet we do not see eye to eye on the reality of vaccine injury. Vaccine manufacturers cannot be sued for vaccines on the CDC childhood schedule if they cause injury, and shockingly, not all vaccines are protected by the act, adult vaccines for shingles are not indemnified.

Informed consent is a human right. Not only protected by our relationship with God, but also by our Constitution. This is an inalienable right. Religious and spiritual freedom are protected by the First Amendment. We are the Constitution State. The State cannot decide who and what is God, or what we put into our bodies. The church, nor the State, has ownership over our bodies. Our bodies, and that of our children, are in the image of God, as we see God, and we have the right to protect, and question medical procedures that we deem immoral and unsafe. There are aborted fetal cells in vaccines. I have a fundamental problem with that. I have every right to refuse for myself and my children, medical products like, "M-M-R II which has not been evaluated for carcinogenic or mutagenic potential, or potential to impair fertility." Merck MMR Vaccine Package Insert 13.1 .

Vaccines are not always safe and effective. With my testimony I am including copies of the response from the recent case brought by, Informed Consent Action Network (ICAN) and Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who sued the United States government. According to a legal document entitled, "Mandate for Safer Childhood Vaccines," Health and Human Services (HHS) has openly admitted to not having filed any vaccine safety reports in over 30 years.

Tort law protects us from bad products. We are a nation of law for a reason. We now know, thanks to tort law and legal discovery, that Purdue and the Sackler family, knew how addictive their opioids were before they were even on the market. They did not care. In fact they made a powerfully addictive drug and then made the cure. I am sure all of you are aware of this? The Sackler family built a fortune on a lie that is killing people everyday even as I speak.

But when it comes to vaccines, we trust the pharmaceutical industry? The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, VCIP has paid out four billion dollars to families with vaccine injuries. Merck is currently being sued for fraud for the HPV Gardasil vaccine, and the mumps portion of the MMR vaccine. Merck is also being sued for vaccine injury for Zostavax, a vaccine that is not covered by The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, therefore Merck can be sued. It will be telling to see what is

found via discovery as the legal proceedings progress. Currently there are over 100 cases against Zostavax pending, and thousands more in the pipeline.

What is truly upsetting to me as a parent, is that my child was injured by Varivax, Merck's vaccine for Chickenpox, and I cannot sue! Discovery is not allowed for vaccines covered by the National Vaccine Injury Act. Yet my child suffered many of the same side effects the victims of the shingles vaccine did. My child's injury is denied, called anecdotal! Instead of being able to sue and get compensation for this travesty, we are treated as less than human, we're treated as if we're lying. What on earth do we gain from lying about vaccine injury? When I tell this story, some people threaten me, and call me offensive names. It's horrible! Please, do NOT refer to me as antivaxx!

Antivaxx is a derogatory slur and it is offensive. I stand for informed consent. The chickenpox vaccine gave my child the chickenpox, and then the shingles. This is medically verified and has been reported to the, Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System, VAERS. Victims of Zostavax suffer from the shingles, chickenpox, anxiety, eye issues, nerve pain, and racing heart, my daughter suffered from all of this! I cannot sue the manufacturer, instead the state wants to mandate vaccines and take away my constitutional rights. This is not democratic. "Researchers at the University of Missouri have also linked the shingles vaccine to keratitis, an inflammation of the cornea. They found 20 cases of keratitis within one month of patients receiving the chickenpox and shingles vaccinations."

Lastly, I ask you to consider the glaring conflicts of interest for Representatives Matt Ritter, and Liz Linehan. Matt Ritter is a partner at Shipman and Goodwin, one of their clients, Boehringer Ingelheim is attempting to enter the human vaccine market with three new vaccines, including a novel flu vaccine for immunocompromised individuals. Liz Linehan's husband is a scientist at Boehringer Ingelheim. BI is also a partner of the Human Vaccines Project, which lists veteran vaccinologist and rubella vaccine developer Stanley Plotkin MD as a board member.

I ask that you to slow down and allow for a proper hearing, and a balanced forum on vaccines in a democratic manner. This is not a hearing. This is not an emergency. I do not consent.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Shafer
Portland