

Joy Brewer

From: Jessica Tobin <jessicabtobin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 1:41 PM
To: Joy Brewer
Subject: HB 4425 and HB 4426

Dear Joy,

I was hoping you might be able to forward along my written testimony to the members of the Education Reform Committee.

Many thanks in advance, and please let me know if you have any questions or if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,
Jessica Tobin
(248) 417-0239

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To the Members of Education Reform Committee,

First, I want to thank you for taking the time to listen to the testimony of the supporters of HB4425 and HB4426 this morning and asking critical questions as you prepare for next steps on these bills.

As the mom of two young children, I attended the hearing to provide my full support of these bills. Unfortunately, while immune-compromised individuals were represented within many of the comments and questions, vaccine-injured children failed to be acknowledged. Like so many other mothers, I followed our doctor's recommendation to vaccinate my first son, and sadly had to learn the hard way that vaccine injury is real and can be devastating. I held my son for three very long nights in the hospital during which he suffered respiratory distress after his first vaccine reaction, watched him develop eye tics within a matter of hours after a subsequent round and finally witnessed the terrifying effects of anaphylactic food allergies to foods he could previously eat with no problem following his last round. At that point, we realized that his system simply could not tolerate the immune stimulation, and in partnership with our doctor, decided to put the breaks on further vaccines – a very difficult decision but one that needed to be made in order to keep him safe. Medical exemptions are virtually impossible to obtain and even injuries such as those that my son suffered, would not qualify him for a medical exemption.

I have now attended two education sessions to obtain his school waivers. It's important for those that haven't been through what myself and so many others have been through is that this is not a decision most of us take lightly. We pour through research and have very difficult conversations with our doctors. We heavily weigh the risks of the diseases against the risks of the vaccines as we lay awake night after night. And I think it is safe to say that there isn't a nurse at any health department in the state that could provide me with any accurate guidance on vaccine decisions without knowing one fact about my son's medical background or history. It's negligent at best and malpractice at worst. Furthermore, why should parents have to go to these education sessions only to relive the details of their child's vaccine injury or resulting health problems to someone who is not directly involved in their healthcare.

As you make your decisions on these current bills, I beg you to not only consider the constitutionality of them but also consider those kids who have suffered adverse reactions from vaccines. The number of these children continues to grow as the schedule gets increasingly larger and mandates and pressures mount. We owe it to our children to consider and protect them all --- whether they be fully vaccinated, immune-compromised or somewhere in between.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tobin