WHO ARE WE?
We are a grassroots coalition of parents, family members, physicians, educators, thought-leaders, medical experts, concerned individuals, and Oregonians from all walks of life and all corners of the state who believe parents have a fundamental right to make informed medical decisions for their children-decisions free from unnecessary and overreaching mandates that compromise our religious and philosophical liberties.

OUR MISSION
Our coalition was formed to defeat Senate Bill 442-3 in order to protect our rights to informed consent, medical freedom, and the privacy of the patient-doctor relationship. We are standing up to protect the rights and civil liberties every Oregonian deserves.

THE ISSUE
As it was initially written, SB 442 would direct the Oregon Health Authority to give parents deadlines for submitting the required documentation for non-medical exemptions. In Oregon, parents currently have a “personal belief” exemption that blends religious and/or philosophical reasons to opt-out of a full vaccination schedule.

Oregon State Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward has sponsored Senate Bill 442, and introduced the -3 amendment, which would remove parental rights to philosophical and religious exemptions from vaccination for all Oregonians.

At present, only two states in the country have similarly stringent exemption laws: Mississippi and West Virginia. All other states provide parents with a religious exemption, a philosophical exemption, or both.

WHAT WE BELIEVE
Personal freedom and civil liberties are fundamental.
Parents have a fundamental right to healthcare choices on behalf of their children and free from governmental interference, whether those choices are based upon scientific research, medical necessity, philosophical beliefs, or religious values.

Philosophical and religious exemptions protect our children and our values.
Oregonians are proud to protect the individuality of personal belief systems and the right to make choices on behalf of those belief systems is fundamental to the core of our civil liberties.

Informed consent builds trust in the medical system.
The patient-doctor relationship is founded on trust and individualized treatment. Mandates violate the privacy of medical care between families and their physicians.
Vaccines are a medical product. They save lives. They can also cause harm. We understand that while vaccines have been highly beneficial to public health, they have side effects for some children. Because of these risks, parents should have the freedom to make decisions with their doctor to decide what is right for their family.

Legislators should support religious freedom and parental rights. Oregonians pride ourselves on our personal freedoms and individual choice. Giving the state the right to mandate a medical procedure, and compromising the freedom for parents to make personal medical decisions is not something the overwhelming majority of Oregonians want. We have a strong tradition of valuing personal liberties and should continue it by protecting vaccine exemptions for families that believe it is the best decision for their children.
Oregonians for Medical Freedom

Committee Board of Directors

Bob Snee – Committee Director
Portland, Oregon

Robert M. “Bob” Snee is an attorney in private practice. Bob grew up in Pawtucket, Rhode Island and received his B.A. from Syracuse University. He then moved to Oregon and received his J.D. from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College. Bob is admitted to practice in Oregon, the United States District of Oregon, and the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

When Bob established his own law practice nearly 28 years ago, that philosophy of understanding and minimizing risk to protect his clients was first and foremost, and continues to be a driving force.

Bob resides in Portland with his wife and their two children who are currently in high school. In addition to being a volunteer Little League Umpire, Bob is on the Board of Directors of Mastery Learning Institute, a nonprofit operating six charter schools in Oregon.

Paul Thomas, M.D. – Committee Co-Chair
Portland, Oregon

www.drpaul.md

Dr. Paul Thomas is a pediatrician in Portland, Oregon. He received his M.D. from Dartmouth Medical School and pediatric residency at UCSD, and is a board-certified fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and board-certified in Integrative and Holistic Medicine, and Addiction Medicine. He taught residents and medical students at Emanuel Children’s Hospital from 1988-1993. He was a full-time pediatrician at Westside Pediatrics from 1993 until 2008 when he opened his own practice, Integrative Pediatrics, LLC.

Dr. Thomas has been active in pediatric programs at St. Vincent's Hospital and Emanuel Children’s Hospital and is at times clinical faculty at OHSU in Portland, Oregon. He was named Top Family Doctor in America by Ladies Home Journal in 2004, and awarded "Top Pediatrician in America" in 2006, 2009, and 2012, 2014 by Castle Connolly, and was voted as one of Portland’s top 10 Pediatricians for 2014.

Dr. Thomas was born in Portland Oregon, grew up in Southern Africa, speaks some Shona and Spanish and is married with ten children (seven adopted).
Oregonians for Medical Freedom
Committee Board of Directors

Jennifer Margulis – Committee Co-Chair
Ashland, Oregon
http://jennifermargulis.net/

Jennifer Margulis, Ph.D., is an award-winning journalist, Fulbright grantee, and a champion of children’s health and wellbeing. A sought-after speaker, she has been researching and writing about issues related to children’s health for over a decade. She is the author/editor of five books, including The Business of Baby (Scribner), finalist for a Books For a Better Life Award.

Her articles have appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and on the cover of Smithsonian magazine. She has taught literature in inner city Atlanta; appeared live on prime-time TV in France; and worked on a child survival campaign in Niger, West Africa.

She lives in Southern Oregon with her husband and four children.
ABOUT SENATE BILL 442

Senate Bill 442 is legislation regarding mandatory vaccination introduced during the 2015 Legislative Session. The bill is currently being considered by the Senate Committee on Health Care.

- As it was initially written, SB 442 would direct the Oregon Health Authority to give parents deadlines for submitting the required documentation for nonmedical exemptions (in Oregon, parents currently have a "personal belief" exemption that blends religious and/or philosophical reasons). However, Sen. Steiner-Hayward has since introduced an amendment that would eliminate personal belief exemptions from Oregon’s school immunization law.

- If passed, SB 442 will mandate all children, irrespective of family medical history or risk factors, or religious or philosophical belief systems, receive the full set and full schedule of recommended vaccines, or those children will be considered noncompliant with state law and be ineligible to attend a school of any kind.

- SB 442 applies to ALL state licensed public or private schools, including daycares.

- The only vaccine exceptions available to Oregonians will be medical exemptions. SB 442 gives the Oregon Health Authority the ability to define what qualifies as a medical exemption and which medical providers will be certified to give these exemptions. Oregon would join only two other states in the country that have only a medical exemption: Mississippi and West Virginia.

- SB 442 removes the informed consent process where a medical procedure that has benefits, risks, and alternatives is explained to the patient and the patient gets to choose whether and how to proceed.

- If SB 442 is passed by the Legislature, it will take effect immediately.
CITIZEN ACTION — HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Talk to the Senate Committee
• Email members of the Senate Committee on Health Care.
• Make personal phone calls to members of the Senate Committee on Health Care.
• Request an in-person meeting with members of the Senate Committee on Health Care.

Talk to your State Representatives and Senators
• Email your state senators and state representatives explaining your position on this legislation and asking them to vote NO if it comes to a floor vote
• Make personal phone calls to your legislators
• Request an in-person meeting with your legislators

Find your Legislator: http://gov.oregonlive.com/legislators/

Tell the media!
• Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about your position on this legislation
• Email your local radio station about this issue, ask them to address it, and share your position opposing this legislation

Social Media – Join us!
• Invite five friends to like the Facebook page: /NoOnSB442.com
• Follow us on Twitter: @NoOnSB442
• Like and share our posts and tweets with others
• Use #protectmedicalfreedom when referencing this issue!

Join the Coalition
• Endorse our coalition on the website: http://www.noonsb442.com/join-thecoalition/

E-Newsletter
• Sign up for our coalition newsletter: http://www.noonsb442.com/get-involved/e-newsletter/

Attend our Freedom Rally
• Monday, March 9 at 1:00-2:30pm | Capitol Front Steps
FREEDOM RALLY INVITE

WHEN: Monday, March 9 from 1:00 – 2:30PM
WHERE: Capitol Steps | 900 Court St. NE, Salem Oregon 97305

Join hundreds of other Oregonians as we host a public rally at the Oregon State Capitol to proclaim our message that we need to protect parental rights, medical freedom and informed consent.

Our goal is to have an organized, informative and effective event where we can meet others across the state who share our beliefs about the importance of this legislation (SB442-3).

We have several speakers lined up and pre-made signage will be available for participants.

Parking is limited and expensive, so we encourage carpooling or public transportation.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend.
Visit: www.NoOnSB442.com | Email: getactive@noonsb442.com

We hope to see you Monday!
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor are a great way to earn media attention for a cause if they are done well. The easier you make it for the editor, the more likely your letter will be published. Here are some tips:

Logistics:
**Find out if there is a word limit.** Newspapers usually have a word limit. Check before you begin writing or submit your letter. Even if there is not a word limit, try to stick to under 250 words – you will lose most audiences after that length and editors will likely edit down your submission for space.

**Follow submission guidelines.** Not every paper has the same submission policies. Do they use an online form? Do you send an email to an individual? Check before just emailing the newspaper and follow their guidelines to ensure likelihood of publication.

**Not anonymous.** Most newspapers do not allow anonymous submissions, so please be prepared to provide your name and contact information. Not every paper publishes this information – it is intended to verify that you are a real person, and to prevent from spam, fraudulent, or misrepresentation of a person.

Writing Tips:
**Focus.** Limit your letter to one or two ideas. If you are addressing more than two ideas, use bullet points.

**Be respectful.** Even though letters are encouraged and intended to be passionate, any disrespectful, crude, or discriminatory language will automatically render the letter unpublishable.

**Be unique.** Stick to any talking points that help your message and your argument, but do not replicate exact ideas. Editors will not publish replicates of previously submitted letters to the editor.

**Check spelling and grammar.** Most editors will not edit your letter for spelling or grammatical errors so make sure to do so before submitting!
WRITE YOUR OREGON LEGISLATORS

Address them by “Senator” or “Representative” and their last name.

Introduce yourself in the first line with your name. Identify yourself as a constituent (if you are) or as a representative of an organization or an affiliation.

Be polite. Use appropriate and respectful capitalization and punctuation. Check spelling and grammar.

Be clear and concise. Try to keep your letter as close to 250—300 words as possible, while including enough information about why you are writing to them.

Explain your issue clearly and why it is important that you are contacting them. Give enough information for the legislator to understand your position.

If applicable, include slides, charts or other documents that support your arguments as attachments.

Be specific with your request. Tell the legislator you are asking them to oppose SB-442.

Remember that SB-442 is not a partisan bill, regardless of your Legislators’ party affiliation. This is an issue that impacts all Oregonians.

It is appropriate and encouraged to request a response. Ask what his/her position on the issue is or how s/he will vote on SB-442.

Offer yourself as a resource if they would like any additional information.

Remember any and all correspondence with staff and legislators at a state or government issued email address is part of the public record and is not considered private or confidential correspondence.

Don’t forget to include your contact information.

Conclude the letter politely with “Sincerely” or “Thank you for your time”.

For More Information
www.NoOnSB442.com | info@NoOnSB442.com | Twitter: @NoOnSB442 | Facebook: /NoOnSB442
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson - Chair
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Democrat - District 33 - Portland
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Representative Cedric Hayden – Vice Chair
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

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