

Oppose SB808- Written Testimony by Megan Montgomery

Good Afternoon, I write to request that this committee vote against SB808. Giving dentists the ability to vaccinate children will harm children's total health care outcomes. When I take my child to the dentist, we are lucky if we get more than a couple minutes with our actual dentist. The hygienist does our cleanings, and then we briefly see the dentist. In that short amount of time, we need to discuss cavities, tooth and mouth health and development, talk about the future need for extractions, orthodontia and any other issues that arise during our visit. We DO NOT have time to talk about immunizations as well. Nor do I want to have my child vaccinated in such a small and non-private space. Dental offices typically have small open bays that work well for dental cleanings and procedures, but are not suitable for giving private health care or wrestling with little bodies through a series of vaccinations.

Pediatricians visits are centered around the health and wellness of the whole child, and their offices are set up to give immunizations as part of a total health care visit. That is where the immunization of children belongs- in the pediatrician's office where they have the time and set up for it.

Please don't vote against children by burdening a dental visit with vaccinations. It's bad for children.

Thank you,

Megan Montgomery