

Good morning Chair Huffman, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Antonio, and honored members of the Health Committee:

In August of 2015 I gave birth to a full term, healthy, baby boy. Levi was perfectly healthy at the time of his birth, but all of that changed when my son was administered the vitamin K shot. I was understanding this shot to be a vitamin, I was unaware that this particular shot not only contained harmful adjuvants but also has a blackbox warning. Levi became extremely lethargic and slept for a solid 8 hour duration. When the nurses came in my son began having all kinds of issues, his blood sugar had dropped, he had inability to latch to nurse, and he was failing heart tests and the pediatrician was very concerned. I proceeded to sit at a breast pump to see if I could get enough colostrum and milk to come through, since Levi was unable to nurse, and my husband sat with Levi and an eye dropper placing small drops of formula in his mouth to try and get his bloodsugar back up. My son before this shot was nursing fine! We had zero issues with latching and was eating quite well. When we were finally able to get his levels back to normal, the hospital pediatrician made arrangements with our pediatrician (because they were giving me a hard time about an immediate appointment which really didn't go over well with the hospital pediatrician) to see him as soon as we left the hospital.

I never injected my son again after that shot. My daughter who was 2 years old at the time of her brother's birth, experienced reactions due to the HIB and Prevnar. My daughter who had spoke some simple words like mama and dada began to turn to screaming when she wanted something. Before my son was born her last shot I gave her, her leg began to swell, turn red and hard to the touch, and she stood there holding it screaming at the top of her lungs. Since her speech had declined the pediatrician wanted to have her hearing checked... well I knew she could hear just fine and the results of the test proved it. I had tried to tell my pediatrician before that I thought something wasn't developing right with my daughter, but I was blown off, until she didn't reach the "milestone" – that was her last shot ever and no thanks to the doctors, I was able to help my daughter regain her speech. We still have some issues with pronunciation but it is improving.

By the time my son was 2 months old he began to break out in thick patches of skin. I had asked my doctor at the time about it and she diagnosed it eczema" and that it was "normal" – she told me to place some Aquaphor (which is just a glorified petroleum jelly) on it and it would "go away on its own."



It never went away on its own. In fact it started to spread over his entire body. My son who was absolutely perfect was now covered in red, thick, oozing eczema. He was absolutely miserable, cried all the time, wouldn't sleep at night, had to wear mittens on his hands to keep from scratching his face, legs, and arms. I had suspected diet could also be contributing to this but his doctors fought me on having him allergy tested. Told me that in most cases the tests would be inconclusive since he was only 4 months old. I told them I understood that but I still wanted it done... I needed a starting ground. Well

they finally caved and the results showed again what I had suspected all along, my son is highly allergic to wheat, dairy, and peanuts. We then had to eliminate all of these allergens and we have to make all of

our food from scratch. We cant eat out with him because cross contamination has happened before, we have to read and watch everything. This includes leaving him with other people who might have children. We have to buy all of the expensive food and this isn't even half of the financial battle. The doctors "cure all" was giving my 4 month old steroids and antibiotics (to cure up the infection that he had developed from scratching). I did this once trusting the word of a doctor that this was going to do the trick. That this was going to clear up his skin and all I would have to do is watch his food.... I was WRONG.



After the 7 days of treatment, I remember the doctor looking at me telling me I was going to have to "stay on top of it because there is a chance that it could come back two fold" I had also learned that a person can need more and more steroids when using them for prolonged periods. Needless to say- I walked out of that office and took my son's health into my own hands. I researched out eczema (which is also linked in with all these shots that we are wanting

children to get) I found outside help from a nutritionist in Canada. We ended up detoxing his body and using homeopathic and my now 2.5 year old son has been clear now for well over 1.5 years. We have had to spend 1000s of dollars out of pocket to help him. Now we have developed lung issues which I understandable seeing that asthma and eczema go hand in hand. Again I was told the only help for my son would be a daily steroid. It seems odd to me that "health" is never about finding the root cause based on an individual, but rather a needle or prescription for everything. I also want to point out that all of these issues- there is NO family history of any of this on either side. In fact my mom nor my grandmother had ever heard of eczema.

I have included pictures but these aren't even the worst of it. I didn't want to remember this time in my life, so much lost, so much time, money and energy. Countless nights staying up with my son between his father who had to get up at 4am to be at work and me taking care of him and my other child. Levi never learned to take naps because for the 1st half of his life he was miserable!

With the history of my son and my daughter- I am sorry but I am in complete opposition of HB559. Why should I have to go through a physician to be signed off on an exemption? My physician is located clear in Cleveland seeing that I have had to switch 3 times since no one would listen to me about the issues my son was having. Why would I make a 3 hour drive from Dayton just to have my physician sign off on a form that honestly is my right to decline vaccination for my children. I feel this bill goes against my right as a parent to have informed consent and this bill is the start in taking away those rights. There are only 3% of us in Ohio that use these exemptions why are you trying to make it harder for us to use our freedoms? Is there something to gain for you? My son also gets sick easily, so why would I risk my child's

health by taking him to a place that he could potentially get sick from? I feel my family has been through enough. 3% of us- you are going after the minority of people basically harassing them against their will to have a piece of paper labeling them as a “non- vaxxer” this seems very much like discrimination to me. At this point in my life, with the experiences I have had with local doctors, I do not feel comfortable talking with them about vaccination and disease because they do not know about the risks or side effects.

Thank you

Alicia Webb

