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Chairman Hilderbrand and Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee Members -

I am writing this testimony in support of bill #SB212.

Do you know what it's like to have a healthy child diagnosed with a life-altering medical condition after a vaccination? I have two.

#### MY DAUGHTER'S STORY:

August 25, 2010, the day our lives were changed forever. Let me tell you our story from the beginning. When our daughter was born, we debated on whether we would vaccinate her. We had concerns about vaccination injuries and weren't sure how it would affect her. We spoke to a few different doctors who strongly urged vaccinating and with me being a nurse and being taught that vaccinations were "safe and effective" we decided to go ahead with her vaccination series, however, we spaced them out over time. Instead of her receiving up to 5 shots at a time we only allowed her max of 2 shots at a time. That way we could tell which shot caused a reaction. When she was 4 months old, she received the DTAP injection. By that evening she was screaming, her thigh was swollen, red, and warm to the touch, to the point that the band aid had caused an indentation. We honestly didn't think it was the vaccination but blamed it on the band aid itself and listed adhesive as an allergy. Fast forward to July 28, 2010 when she received another dose of the DTAP. She experienced a fever, full body rash and within days started exhibiting symptoms of Type I Diabetes. We didn't have diabetes in our family, so we thought maybe she was getting a UTI with the symptoms she was experiencing. I spoke to her doctor and he recommended we get her tested for a UTI. On August 25, 2010, we did a UA and it came back that she had a large amount of glucose and ketones in her urine. The UA was followed by lab work that confirmed she was a new Type I Diabetic. Our lives were changed, we were devastated. She was perfectly healthy prior to this vaccination. I know in my heart and my gut that this vaccination is what caused this frustrating medical condition. As a mother, one of the worst things that can happen, besides the death of your child, is having your child injured or diagnosed with a life changing, life threatening condition. Not only was she a Type I diabetic, but she was also diagnosed with hypothyroidism two years after and then celiac disease two years after that diagnosis. THREE autoimmune conditions that I know she would not have had to experience had she have not received the vaccination that caused her injury. I remember each of her diagnoses days like they were yesterday. She is 12 years old now. She doesn't deserve to have had her childhood ripped away from her. She has an insulin pump and a continuous glucose monitor that we pay dearly for, not to mention the rising cost of insulin. I can't explain to you the anger and regret I have experienced. The emotions that our whole family, including her, have had over the years. If anyone asks me about vaccinations now, I tell them to do their research, don't trust the information that companies put out. They don't have to go through the same rigorous testing that other companies do. They don't require blind studies or third-party reviews. They hold absolutely NO LIABILITY. In what world does that make sense? These companies are out for money. They don't care about families like yours or mine. I have prayed every single day for a cure for diabetes, I have also prayed for the truth about vaccinations to come out. Bottom line – vaccinations should not be FORCED on individuals. You should have a right to CHOOSE, there should be NO mandates for vaccinations.

## MY SON'S STORY:

I had picked my 8-month-old son up from daycare on January 14, 2014. When I bathed him, I had noticed that his skin color appeared off. I was concerned but thought maybe it was due to being cool after his bath. I snuggled him and realized he wasn't acting quite right. I wasn't sure why; I could just sense something was off. It was at this time that I had decided to take him to the ER. Upon arriving to the ER, he seemed fine, but something was still not setting well with me. Within an hour of being at the emergency room he started to crash. His color worsened, he began to mottle and have respiratory distress. He was also becoming more lethargic. We were immediately moved to a different ER room and the staff were working quickly to prevent a worsening situation. An IV was inserted into his scalp, breathing treatments were being administered. Oxygen was placed. After a few hours in the ER, we were admitted to the hospital with respiratory distress. He had gone through RSV testing and influenza testing, both results came back negative. He was also negative for pneumonia. There was no explanation for why he was in this condition. During his hospital stay he had a severe reaction to Rocephin. He was dependent on oxygen as well. Finally, after 5 days, we were released from the hospital with no true diagnosis. The only logical explanation we have realized was that he had received his vaccination series on December 12, 2013. Per the CDC an individual may experience reactions up to 4-6 weeks after vaccinations.

As a parent with two children, and myself, that have had reactions to vaccinations, I am begging to allow us, as individuals with Constitutional Rights, to continue to make educated decisions for our own health on our own accord. I do not feel vaccinations or treatments of any kind should be allowed to be made mandatory. We are human beings, not science experiments, animals, or test subjects. We deserve the right to our Freedoms and our freedom of choice for our own bodies.

Thank you,  
Jerlynn Johnston