

**Hello, Chair Judy Lee and Members of the Senate Human Services Committee,**

My name is Brenda Stallman. I am the Executive Officer of Trill District Health Unit in Hillsboro. I am here to offer opposition to SB 2384.

In the hearings I have sat in on, listening to testimony either for or against required vaccinations, prohibiting use of mRNA vaccines, and now, for imposing a penalty when such mRNA vaccines are given, one important word is often left out of the conversation. That is the word “pandemic.” Well over 1 million lives were lost to Covid. It wasn’t until a vaccine became available that we saw a downward trend in rates of mortality. The technology wasn’t brand new, but rather in development for over two decades, but recently became mature enough for use against the virus that causes Covid. This from the Yale School of Public Health. (*The Application and Future Potential of mRNA Vaccines*; Gupta, Swati; May 7, 2021) Many other science-based sources offer the same explanation. And to this I offer simply “THANK GOODNESS!”

But I am not here to rehash everyone’s view on how Covid was or wasn’t handled. But more to ask you to consider our future health and promising developments that are being looked at for future vaccines using mRNA technology that will prevent diseases such as rabies, influenza, Zika, HIV and cancer. Scientists continue to work on making technology better. Additionally, targeting a broad range of different diseases all in one shot are also in development. This will greatly simplify our current vaccination schedules.

I have lost too many family members and friends to cancer. In spite of the current availability of flu vaccine, CDC estimates anywhere from 12,000 – 52,00 deaths each

02/06/2023

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year occur due to influenza, depending on how well the vaccine matches the circulating strains, while 140,000-710,000 people are hospitalized due to the flu each year.

How can we possibly deny improved protection and prevention from these deadly diseases by creating a law banning administration of mRNA vaccines; and at the same time tie the hands of health care professionals whose extensive education, training and experience are halted, leaving them unable to offer their patients the very thing that will save their lives?

I urge you to vote in opposition to SB 2384.

Thank you.

Brenda Stallman