

Chapter 246-650 WAC – Newborn Screening
Formal Comments and Staff Recommendations (WSR 19-14-103)
Public Hearing, August 14, 2019

Comments in Opposition of the Proposed Rule		
Commenters	Summary of Comments	Recommendations
Bruce Guthrie	<p>Anyone should be able to opt out of any state medical procedure or test. We should be able to achieve any proper public health objective through voluntary persuasion and peaceful means. If we use force (all law is ultimately backed up by the threat of police force) then we will tend to drive the extreme fringe further in to the shadows of extremism and make problems such as the anti-vax movement worse. We should want to live in a peaceful society, and not one that to quickly resorts to force in health situations. We each own our own bodies. People should have their bodily integrity respected.</p>	<p>Recommendation: Adopt as proposed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 70.83 RCW directs the State Board of Health to adopt rules necessary for newborn screening. • The Department of Health partners with birth facilities and midwives to provide a strong newborn screening system to prevent death and disability for babies. • State law around newborn screening allows for parents or guardians to opt out of newborn screening if it conflicts with their religious beliefs.