

My name is Elissa Anderson and I am a small business owner, wife, and mother of three. I live in Salem, Oregon, and I vehemently oppose HB3063.

Although the CDC itself advises against vaccinating my children against certain diseases (for example, their website specifically states that a person who "has a parent, brother, or sister with a history of immune system problems," or "has ever had a condition that makes them bruise or bleed easily," should NOT get an MMR vaccine), my son, who falls into both of the categories mentioned above, can not obtain a medical exemption in Oregon. To make matters worse, my child with an active autoimmune condition can not find a pediatrician willing to treat him in their practice (due to the fact that he is not fully vaccinated, as recommended by the CDC).

Many if not most parents who currently benefit from obtaining non-medical vaccine exemptions in Oregon do so to protect their children who themselves have been injured by a previous vaccine, or who have siblings or parents who have been victims of such injury, because of the *incredible difficulty* in obtaining a medical exemption in Oregon. Vaccine injury is not fake news, bad science, or misinformation. It is very real, and acknowledged by the Health Resources Services Administration, The National Institutes of Health, the CDC and the FDA, and is backed by scientific evidence.

Please be aware that the majority of parents claiming non-medical exemptions in Oregon are already being discriminated against by healthcare professionals and are being removed from their practices, leaving our children marginalized, and without access to medical care, save the emergency room. While I can't speak for the entire state of Oregon, I can say with confidence that Salem's pediatricians have built a wall around their practices to keep out the 'undesirables.' This discrimination is in direct violation of federal laws protecting our fundamental and unalienable rights of conscience, and in some cases, religious freedom. **We are our children's only advocates.**

While I teach my children at home, outside of the traditional public school system, I do so in partnership with a distance charter school. This option has been an incredible gift because not only do I get to be involved in my children's education, but I also have resources at my disposal to ensure that they are getting the best possible education the state can provide. Even though my children are not exposed to others during their normal school day, HB3063 would remove my children's access to their public charter school the way the bill is currently written.

HB3063 is attempting to strong-arm those of us exercising our rights to medical freedom into submission. The result of this bill, should it pass, will *not* be increased protection for the medically fragile. It will be an exodus of children from the public school system, which has the potential to be a significant financial burden, especially for our public charter schools who rely heavily on families like mine for their funding. Furthermore, while some of us are lucky enough to be able to teach our kids at home, many others are not. This bill will oppress working families, and will undermine the Democratic

Party's commitment to eliminating opportunity gaps if parents are forced to choose between the health and safety of their child, and a public school education.

Supporters of HB3063 naively believe that forced vaccination of our public school children will guarantee immunity and protect those who can't be vaccinated, but I argue that no vaccine is 100% effective. This will only create a false sense of security. Even if every child in our public school system were vaccinated AND checked for immunity, only 97% of those students would be immune to measles, according to MERCK, the vaccine manufacturer. Currently Oregon's unvaccination rate is a mere 2.6%. This is hardly an emergency.

Unvaccinated children are not a threat to the health and safety of the medically fragile. The very few medically fragile children who qualify for a medical exemption in the State of Oregon and who this bill claims to protect are so immune-compromised that it is dangerous for them to even attend school. These kids are susceptible to anything and everything, including group A *Streptococci*, human parainfluenza viruses, norovirus, respiratory adenovirus, RSV, the common cold, cuts, scrapes, and common allergens, all of which are more common in the public school system than measles.

Just days ago, Governor Kate Brown said that, "everyone deserves the ability to seek information and make their own decisions about their health care." I'm with HER, and I implore you to reconsider the immense implications of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elissa Anderson