

I am submitting written testimony in opposition to HB 3063. I am a mother of two beautiful daughters and it's my job to do everything I can to protect them and be their voice until they can stand up for themselves. I was once very adamant about vaccinating and vaccinating on time. It wasn't until my oldest daughter suffered from her first seizure on the way home from her wellness check after receiving her MMR vaccine, that I began to question whether they were as safe as I was told. She suffered from epilepsy for months following her vaccination and while every neurologist we met with agreed that her epilepsy was caused by encephalitis from the MMR vaccine we are still unable to obtain a medical exemption. Oregon has some of the strictest medical exemption requirements in the country so many of us parents have been forced to receive non medical exemptions to protect the safety and wellbeing of our children. This bill is essentially telling us parents that OHA and our legislators knows what is best for our children when we are the ones who have spent countless hours next to their bedsides, doing the research and praying for a full recovery. This bill is telling us parents that the government doesn't care what happened to our children or what may happen to them if forced vaccinations become law. You may argue that the word forced is too strong, but I assure you that is exactly what this bill is designed to do.

In my specific case, with the passage of this bill we will be forced to leave this wonderful state, my family, my husband's family, our friends, our school and everything we love behind just to protect our children from further harm. We are unable to afford for me to stay home and homeschool my children. I can assure you that the thousands of people who oppose this bill have been sitting up at night, in tears and scared because we fear our government is going to fail us and our children.

In the last 25 years the current vaccine schedule has almost tripled in size. In another 20 years when the schedule has doubled again? Can you vote on this certainly knowing you were on the right side of history or legislation? Do you really want the government to decide what medical interventions are best for children and families?

We have heard time and time again that vaccines are safe and effective, yet in my small group with Mothers of Preschoolers (a group of 15 mothers and 23 children), 5 families have been directly effected by vaccine damage.

I'm urging you to consider families like mine, the hundreds of families here today and the thousands of others who could not make it here today and vote no on HB 3063. Thank you.