

To Whom it may concern,

I will, unfortunately, not be able to make it to the hearing on Thursday as I am due to have my 5th child any minute. I am an Oregonian who wholeheartedly opposes HB 3063 which mandates vaccines for school and removes philosophical and religious exemptions. As a mother, I take my responsibility to make informed medical decisions, and educational choices, on behalf of my children very seriously. I have 2 vaccine injured children which spurred me on to do years and literally hundreds of hours of research into the subject. As a result, I have 2 more children who are unvaccinated and are 2 of the healthiest kids I know. They almost never get sick beyond a slight cough or runny nose. They have none of the behavioral or chronic health problems that their older siblings have had to deal with as a result of their vaccines. We, my husband and I, have spent years and lots of money to recover our older 2 children's health and have seen much improvement, to the point that I am not confident we could get a diagnosis anymore that might qualify us for a medical exemption. The public discourse I've seen on this subject is so incredibly biased and over-simplified that it angers me. Currently, we homeschool our children, so this bill would not necessary affect us personally at this moment. It would impede our ability and freedom to seek out alternate educational means in the future, should our children's needs change as they grow. I want to keep my freedom to make the best choices for my kids' education and this bill would strip us of all choices but homeschool. We will not consider vaccinating again with our children's history. That is out of the question. We would move out of state first. I know many people who opt out of one, some, or all vaccines who do use the public or private schools which would then be forced to pull their kids from school and possibly give up a second income. Or be forced to move out of state, if they are unable to stay home, like single parents for instance. This bill is, in my opinion, a grave overstepping of the government onto our freedoms as parents and as humans. Informed CONSENT, means informed AND uncoerced. This is a form of coercion, holding educational freedom hostage as a means to force medical procedures onto people who don't want them. It smacks of tyranny by the state. Public health measures should be restricted to activities that the state can do without impeding personal freedom, individual or parental rights. Keeping streets clean, underground sewage, keeping public parks cleared of cigarette stubs, dirty needles, etc. These are examples of community health measures that are good, that do not impose medical procedures on individuals against their will. This bill might also force more people onto welfare who cannot afford to live on one income and would strip many tax dollars from the school districts where these families live. Please do the right thing and oppose House Bill 3063.

Thank you,

Leah Marl