

Good afternoon,

I wish I could be there at the Capitol on Thursday, but this email will have to do.

I wanted to tell you that I oppose House Bill 3063, which would remove all nonmedical vaccine exemptions. This bill should be withdrawn because it is discriminatory, and unneeded.

Oregon vaccine rates are already very high, which only 2.6% being unvaccinated, so there is no need to impose this discriminatory practice. It is discriminatory because doctors in Oregon routinely kick patients out of their practices for their religious and philosophical beliefs, which make it difficult to get a physician's signature on any form, much less one for a religious or philosophical exemption. It's even more difficult to get one for medical reasons.

The poor, who primarily use OHP for their medical insurance, may find that their visit to receive the signature is not covered. These people may not be able to afford the signature, even if they can find someone willing to sign it.

In this way, the bill is discriminatory against the poor, those practicing a religion that is incompatible with vaccination, and those who do not vaccinate for philosophical reasons. I find the practice predatory, un-American, and not compatible with Oregonian's rights to freedom of religion and informed choice.

Thank you for taking the time to read my message.

Valerie