

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to vote against House Bill 3063 (HB3063).

I am a parent of two with my third child due at the end of June. Two years ago, my wife and I relocated to Oregon (specifically, Portland) from Indiana. Before that, we lived in California, where I was born and raised. We specifically chose to live in Oregon because we like its mix of freedom and liberalism. In Oregon, we found welcoming, accepting people who are actively trying to improve the world around them, not through force and law, but through compassion and reason. We found cities and communities trying to actively attract new business and economic growth while still caring for the environment and the people that growth might affect. When nearby states were being swayed by big business or alarmist headlines, Oregon stayed strong as a beacon of calm.

HB3063 goes against everything we thought Oregon believed in. Instead of weighing all of the sides of an issue and all of the ramifications of taking action, HB3063 seems like a wild response to over-dramatic reporting and events like the recent measles outbreak in the Vancouver-Portland area.

The truth is, vaccines are not the completely safe, 100% foolproof healthcare option as sold by pharmaceutical marketing. Scientific studies have shown again and again that there are very serious potential side effects to taking vaccines. These are not junk science studies proclaiming autism — these are legitimate studies that have led to the foundation of the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) by the CDC, FDA, and HHS.

I dug into studies, statistics and potential side effects (and their severity) extensively before I made my decision not to vaccinate my children. It was not an easy decision, but it was my responsibility as a parent to put the considerable time and energy into being fully informed. In the end, I did not emerge from this research anti-vaccine. Quite the contrary, I wholeheartedly agree with the scientific logic of vaccines and see their efficacy. However, I am also aware that they are a calculated risk, one which weighs the significant dangers of vaccines against the dangers of illness. I weighed all of these factors when my wife and I made our choice.

HB3063 takes that decision from us. Proponents have argued that it would only apply if children were going to a public school, but that is not what the wording of the bill states. In the current law, the ORS 433.267 exemption clause states, "As a condition of attendance in **any school or children's facility in this state, every child through grade 12** shall submit to the administrator..." This wording is extremely vague, and it opens the door to potentially draconian enforcement of the full vaccine schedule — a schedule which routinely features vaccines that have not received multi-year studies of their ramifications.

The non-medical exemption was the one safety valve against this enforcement, and HB3063 removes that safety valve.

There are many ways to respond to measles outbreaks, including monitoring the outbreak progress and temporarily requiring specific measles vaccines if the outbreak passes a certain point.

Wholesale and indefinite removal of any objection to forcible injection of any and all vaccines is not the correct response.

Sincerely,

Gavin Cahill