

Hello,

I was horrified and saddened yesterday to find that Oregon is considering a bill to require vaccinations for school attendance. My husband and I moved to Oregon with our two children (now aged 2 and 4) two years ago from Indiana because we wanted to find a more liberal community, but one that also respected parental choice and rights. We love where we live in Milwaukie and have no plans to move anywhere else. I am now five months pregnant with my third child.

As I understand the data from the CDC, there have been only two verified deaths from measles in the United States from 2006 to 2018, whereas there have been nearly 90,000 adverse reactions from the MMR vaccine reported to the federal Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) during the same time period. Over 120 of those were deaths, according to that same VAERS data. Of course, this isn't information you would ever see on the news—it's far more lucrative to blow events like the recent measles outbreak in Washington and Oregon out of proportion and create an atmosphere of fear and panic.

I did months and months of research, which included reading books, websites, and arguments on both sides as well as the reports of actual vaccine studies, before making the decision not to vaccinate my children. It was not a decision I took lightly and it was certainly not based on scaremongering, questionable science, or some erroneous belief that vaccines are the cause of autism. I respect every parent's right to look at the actual evidence and make up their own mind, and I sincerely hope legislators in Oregon come to the same conclusion. I am heartsick at the idea that mainstream media fear tactics could influence legislation here to this extent—I really thought better of my adopted state.

I urge you to protect parental rights by not supporting HB 3063.

Yours,

Triona Murphy
Milwaukie, OR