

My Dear Governing Body,

I am opposed to HB 3063 (the bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon schoolchildren). Besides my fundamental belief that people should have rights over their own bodies and by extension parents should have the right to make the same choices for their children, I believe in medical freedom and our right to choose what medical modalities we use. Additionally, as a pediatric acupuncturist I've seen so many cases where a parent using their exemption, to slow down or separate out the vaccines they do give their children, has made a tremendous difference in their child's health. I believe parents should retain their rights to refuse vaccinations without being coerced or threatened or bullied. We are supposed to be a free country where we get to make our own choices!

I believe all children should have access to an education regardless of vaccination status. Only 2.7% of Oregon schoolchildren currently hold a philosophical or religious exemption, meaning that scientifically we already have high community immunity to disease. Furthermore, having some non vaccinated people in any given group is medically helpful as they are like canaries in a mine. Even in a fully vaccinated group not all people will be immune and what's more a certain percentage will become silent carriers of those diseases. Meaning that due to their vaccine exposure they end up with subclinical levels of the disease, but still pass it on asymptotically. This is notorious for happening with measles. It's when a non vaccinated person picks it up from the silent carries that we actually get to see that an illness is present and can start doing something about it.

Those that choose not to vaccinate know they are the potential canaries. They know that they have a higher potential risk for developing some of these conditions and find that risk acceptable. What is not acceptable is to try to force them into something potentially life changing against their will.

Now let's talk about how people's choices affect other people's choices. If you believe that being vaccinated keeps you/your child safe from a particular disease then by that logic you/your child is safe regardless of if someone else is or is not vaccinated. The only one at risk is the non vaccinated and as stated before accept that risk. If on the flip side you/your child is not actually protected by the vaccine and so fears getting the condition from someone then why the hell are you vaccinating them in the first place? Either they work and you're safe or they don't and there's no point to them in the first place. Either way someone not being vaccinated does not change the affect of the disease on the vaccinated so therefore, there's no reason to take away parental rights to those using non-medical exemptions.

There are many reasons parents use those exemptions. Perhaps they are still trying to catch up on the most recent 9 vaccines that were added to the required amount. Perhaps they believe that the basic 6 given before it was illegal to sue a doctor or vaccine company due to vacation injuries (even death) are enough for their child and they don't want to do the whole 74 recommend vaccines. Perhaps their child has had a

reaction to a vaccination that doesn't qualify for a medical exemption, and so they choose to no longer use that vaccine, even if they use others. Perhaps they are using a spaced out or reduced schedule. They may be a member of a religion (such a Jehovah's Witness), which is morally opposed to the use of vaccination. I could go on and on with reasons. There is a lot of gray area that the exemptions allow while still keeping every child healthy and vaccination rates high.

Bottom line: people have a right to freedom of medical choice and contrary to current propaganda, non vaccinated people do not put vaccinated people at higher risk. Vaccines either work or they don't so please keep freedom intact.

Thank you for your time. Please protect our freedom of choice and vote No on HB 3063!

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