

February 26, 2019

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of Salem, Oregon. I am a mother to 3 school-aged children and a registered nurse employed at Salem Hospital.

I strongly oppose HB 3063, which would eliminate non-medical vaccination exemptions for school children in Oregon.

According to the American Medical Association, informed consent to medical treatment is fundamental in both ethics and law. One of the key elements of informed consent is voluntariness: that is, that the decision is free from coercion or undue influences. Withholding education as a consequence of refusing a medication is one of the biggest coercions a parent can face on behalf of their child. Considering the removal of this basic right should only be contemplated in the face of an immediate and life-threatening state emergency effecting the clear majority. There has been no vaccine-preventable outbreak that meets this criteria. Regarding the recent measles outbreak, there has been one hospitalization and no deaths. Since 1999, there have been 11 documented deaths due to measles nationally. These numbers do not constitute a national or state emergency needing excessive measures to prevent. Effective health measures to treat viral illnesses and to prevent deaths are already in place. Measles is a well-known and understood childhood illness, with clear protocols for treating, NOT a state emergency requiring the removal of medical rights to contain.

Please DO NOT support this bill. Please maintain integrity and respect for medical freedom and parental choice in Oregon by NOT supporting HB 3063.

Sincerely,

Carissa Henderson
RN and mother
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