

February 27, 2019
Re: HB 3063

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a family practice physician in Tualatin and have serious ethical and medical concerns for HB 3063 which would remove all Religious and Philosophical exemptions for vaccination. Although not a bill forcing vaccination, this bill would coerce some families who choose not to vaccinate to do so for their children to attend school and would force families to home school, which is not always feasible to all families. I hope to explain to you that this bill would violate our constitutional rights, medical ethics and is completely unnecessary.

For families who depend on public school, this will force them to vaccinate per the CDC schedule and will take away their ability to choose what is best for their child, their child's medical and family history or their religious beliefs. Many of my patients chose to not vaccinate, or to forego unnecessary vaccinations such as Hepatitis B, which is a sexually or intravenously contagious disease that most children have no exposure to. I have already seen this occur in my practice, as families who originally chose not to follow the CDC schedule due to philosophical or religious beliefs have been forced to do so because their schools and day-care's have started to mandate vaccination. These families have been placed in a situation where they must choose to find a new school or to vaccinate according to the CDC schedule. For many families, this is not an easy decision to make when in need of consistent child care due to their work schedules.

This violates our constitutional rights to religious freedom. The First Amendment of our Constitution states that our people can express and practice religious beliefs without limitation. This House Bill would limit those with religious beliefs to not vaccinate from attending a school of their choice, thereby limiting their freedoms and showing prejudice for their religious choices.

From a medical ethics point of view, eliminating Religious and Philosophical Exemptions coerces families who cannot home school and must attend public school to vaccinate. This violates at least two of the major principals for medical ethics:

- 1) **The Respect for Autonomy** – this implies that the patient has the capacity to act intentionally, with understanding, and without controlling influences that would mitigate against a free and voluntary act. This would be violated for families who are unable to home school.
- 2) **The Principal of Non-Maleficence** – this implies that we take steps to limit or avoid harm in our patients. The Nation Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 implies there are "unavoidable risks" associated with vaccination, and parents must be able to make informed choices on whether to accept those risks or not, depending on their individual circumstances and beliefs, and not on their ability to home school or not.

If you are concerned about decreasing vaccination rates, let me assure you this is not the case. Oregon's vaccination rates have not significantly changed since 2014. This information can be viewed here by individual vaccine from the CDC:

- ❖ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/childvaxview/data-reports/index.html>

This bill has come into consideration due to the recent outbreak of measles in the Pacific Northwest. The Oregon Health Authority can confirm that there were no community acquired cases due to this outbreak. The Oregon and Washington health departments were able to contain the spread of the virus almost immediately. This is also evident in that a contagious person attended a Blazer's game and exposed over 19,000 people to the virus – not a single case of measles resulted from this. Our population is sufficiently protected with our MMR immunization rates or >90% (per CDC). This outbreak was also not unusual, as pockets of measles outbreaks occur yearly in the United States:

- ❖ <https://www.cdc.gov/measles/cases-outbreaks.html>

Eliminating these exemptions is also unlikely to change any outbreaks of these conditions, as outbreaks still occur in populations with 95-100% immunization rates. I've attached a few references of this below.

Please help Oregonians maintain their freedoms and choice in their individual medical decisions and schooling choices for their children. I hope this letter helps address that is bill is not only unnecessary, but also violates our constitution and medical ethics.

Thank you.



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Additional information:

Multnomah County Clinical Information Regarding Measles Outbreak:
<https://multco.us/health-officer/news/clinician-alert-measles-exposure-update-feb-6-2019>

Measles Outbreak in a Highly Vaccinated Population – Israel, July–August 2017
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6742a4.htm>

Measles Outbreak among Vaccinated High School Students -- Illinois
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00000359.htm>

Measles outbreak in a vaccinated school population: epidemiology, chains of transmission and the role of vaccine failures.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1646939/?page=1>

Mumps outbreak in a highly vaccinated population.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1861205>

Outbreak of pertussis in a fully immunized adolescent and adult population.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8118532>