

Hello,

I am writing to tell you that I oppose HB 3063, the bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon schoolchildren. I believe parents should retain their rights to refuse vaccinations without being coerced, and 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. 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 their child has had a reaction to a vaccination that doesn't qualify for a medical exemption, and so they choose to not 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.

There is a lot of gray area that the exemptions allow while still keeping every child healthy and vaccination rates high.

I hope you will not support this bill along with me. Our family along with hundreds of others are prepared to leave this state if our rights are take away. What kind of country do you want to live in? I hope you will think about that question deeply.

Thank you for reading,

LeeAnn Congdon  
503-865-4814

Sent from my iPhone