

Hello,

I am an Oregonian and the mother of five children, aged 18, 15, 13, 11, and 6. The recent proposed changes in Oregon's vaccine exemption laws feel concerning to me. All of our children are what you might consider partially vaccinated, that is to say that we have chosen the vaccines that we felt were important to give our children and chosen to decline some others (Hep B and HPV for example). We've chosen to do ones like DTaP (mostly for the tetanus), meningitis for my now college student, and MMR (more for the mumps and rubella).

One of the concerns that I have about Oregon considering changing its vaccine exemptions is that it doesn't make allowances for diseases that are bloodborne pathogens and those that are airborne. It lumps immunizations for a number of wildly different illnesses under the broad heading of Vaccines. Some vaccines matter more to the herd than others.

Something that should be another obvious source of concern is that, if Oregon removes nonmedical exemptions for children attending school, more parents will respond by choosing to homeschool. I have been a homeschooling parent for many years, and don't have anything against it as a concept, but I don't think that it should be done out of fear or because someone feels like they have to homeschool.

In summary, I think vaccination decisions should be left up to parents, who are largely acting in the best interests of their children.

Thank you for your time,

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