

testimony

Good afternoon,

My name is Victoria, and I reside in Forest Grove.

Chair Salinas and members of the Health Care Committee:

There is NO measles outbreak in Oregon, and our vaccination rates remain high, with only 2.7% of schoolchildren holding exemptions to some or all vaccines. The outbreak in Washington was among a group of refugees who prefer not to vaccinate and purposely exposed each other to the measles. This was not a wildfire of measles spreading through unvaccinated schoolchildren in a large area.

Therefore, I say, there is NO emergency, and removing the ability to be excluded from vaccination is an overreach to a nonexistent problem. This not only violates our freedoms, but it will remove children from school, permanently hurting EVERY district's funding.

As you know, medical exemptions are nearly impossible to receive in Oregon. This is why the philosophical exemption exists--not just to give parents freedom, but to give DOCTORS the freedom to ask parents not to continue to vaccinate a child who has suffered seizures, encephalitis, syncope, shock, or allergic reactions to vaccines; or a child who has auto-immune issues in the family.

Currently, none of those conditions is enough to get a medical exemption from the Department of Health.

To summarize--

There is no measles epidemic in Oregon
Vaccinate rates in Oregon remain high
The philosophical and religious exemptions exist to

- 1) Give parents medical freedom
- 2) Allow a gray area when medical exemptions are impossible to receive

Thank you for hearing my thoughts, and I hope you will vote "no" on this bill.