

Testimony of Jenifer Trivelli, M.S.
Parent, Resident, and Social-Emotional Educator

In Opposition of HB 3063: Relating to health care; declaring an emergency.

Before the House Committee on Health Care, February 28th, 2019, 3pm

Health Care Committee Members:

Oxford Dictionaries defines an emergency as a serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action: "your quick response in an emergency could be a lifesaver".¹

Removing the ability of parents to decline immunizations on behalf of their child for reasons other than the child's indicated diagnosis does not have an *immediate* impact on the (unspecified) health care related emergency in the title of the bill.

Please clarify what specific emergency this bill's solution will immediately impact. Is it the recent measles cases in Oregon & Washington, of which, according to the CDC's links for Clark, King, & Multnomah Counties, there have been zero deaths?

107 youth ages 10 to 24 years died by suicide in Oregon in 2017.² That is an emergency which we can act quickly on and can save lives that are being lost.

A similar bill (SB 442) declaring an emergency was proposed in 2015 in response to the measles cases in Disneyland. What follows hereafter are relevant pieces of the testimony I presented then both verbally and in written form.

When I reflected on what my most useful contribution could be to this Committee, I came to a focus point with information about the brain that I use every day as a parent and in my work as an educator. Let me explain.

Researchers studying neurobiology have discovered that we have lower brain regions that focus primarily on assessing threat as a means of survival. We also have a functionally separate higher brain region that is responsible for problem-solving, empathy, morality, and the ability to choose a response (while the lower brain can only react).

This bill, by declaring an emergency, is drawing on the fear of threat and thereby activating a LOT of primitive brain regions in people who feel strongly (in either direction) about vaccines and rights.

If you want to argue the case for forcing parents to vaccinate their children or have them excluded from school, give it a fair voice and bring it forward in a legitimate, transparent, due process manner.

Utilizing the fear that neuroscience tells us literally, physiologically incapacitates us to use our entire brain and make a wise, fully informed decision is a slight of hand that removes the rights of the people to contribute intelligently to the real issue.

Let's look at this clearly; the direct implication of this bill (removing parents' rights to decline immunizations on their child's behalf) can, in no way, give immediate respite to the purported "emergency" of what I assume is the measles cases.

I respectfully request each member of the committee to sit with all of the information and opinions presented to you. Really try to discern for yourself whether your thoughts on the subject are fueled by fear, or from the quiet peace within which is the hallmark of a fully integrated and operational brain.

1. Retrieved from <https://www.google.com/search?q=emergency+definition&oq=emergency+definition&ags=chrome..69i57j0l5.3271j1j9&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8> February 27th, 2019.
2. Oregon Task Force on School Safety 2019 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE, accessed via <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/docs/2019-Legislative-Report-OTFSS.pdf> on February 27th, 2019