

February 27, 2019

Re: Written Testimony in Opposition of HB3063

Dear House Health Care Committee Members,

As an Oregon resident, and one of your constituents, I believe in the right of true informed consent and a parent's right to decide what medical treatment their child receives. I vehemently oppose HB3063 as it removes my right to decline immunizations on behalf of my children. Medical decisions should never be coerced by the state. We have a right to know what is being done to and put in our bodies and the bodies of children while they are underage and in our care, as well as the right to decline medical procedures, including vaccines. HB3063 is discriminatory and deprives children of their right to an education based on their vaccination status.

Our country is built on the foundation of religious rights and separation of church and state. The state should not remove our rights to an informed decision to decide for or against vaccinations, whether those are religious or philosophical reasons. The state should not hold parents hostage to choose between allowing their kids to receive a public education, private education or attend daycare while following their sincere religious or philosophical beliefs by removing the religious and philosophical vaccine exemptions. Regardless of your stance on vaccinations, it is our right as a parent to make that decision, not the state.

Per the Supreme Court: "It is cardinal with us that the custody, care and nurture of the child reside first in the parents, whose primary function and freedom include preparation for obligations the state can neither supply nor hinder. It is in recognition of this that these decisions have respected the private realm of family life which the state cannot enter. - Prince v. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 321 U.S. 158 (1944)"

Arizona Rep. Nancy Barto: "We are here to acknowledge vaccines have a place, but it's every parent's individual right to decide the vaccine's place in the child's life." - Jim Satney, Prepper Digest (February 24, 2019)

The fetal DNA used in vaccines was obtained through abortion. This is an ethical and moral issue that I disagree with on a fundamental level. I cannot willingly and knowingly inject my children with aborted fetal tissue that has been shown in studies to cause damage both to healthy immune systems and healthy DNA. As a strongly pro-life Christian, I reject the use of electively aborted fetuses in non-life saving medical treatments. To bar pro-life Christians from attending public school, private school or daycare because of their sincerely held religious beliefs is religious discrimination and should not be tolerated.

There have been no double blind studies with a placebo control. All vaccines were tested against other vaccines with similar ingredients, not against a saline based placebo. This is problematic because it

invalidates the studies and does not give accurate information as to their reactions or effectiveness. There have also been no long-term studies done on the effects the current CDC recommended schedule has on the health, genetics and immunobiology of our children.

As stated last year in a letter to the Governor from the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon has continually had high vaccination rates statewide and those rates have not changed over the past few decades. Only 2.6% of Oregon's K-12 students are 100% unvaccinated. An additional 4.9% of K-12 students with non-medical exemptions are partially vaccinated, meaning they could simply be exempt from just one vaccine. That means that 66% of children with a non-medical vaccination exemption are actually partially vaccinated. Mandating vaccination for all students in Oregon for school attendance will impact 31,521 students that have filed a non-medical exemption.

Please preserve our rights as parents to make informed decisions regarding the medical care of our children and our right to accept or decline vaccinations.

Our bodies, our families, our jurisdiction, our choice. It is as simple this: our American right to freedom of choice and informed consent.

Sincerely,

Sarah Koeltzow, Oregon Resident, Registered Voter  
Concerned Parent and Advocate for Informed Choice