

Hello Members of the Health Care Committee:

My name is Amy Weinheimer and I am a resident of District 30.

I am writing to urge you to vote no on HB 3063 which requires 17 vaccinations to begin taxpayer funded education in reading, writing, and mathematics.

I am a parent to three wonderful, academically talented children who are currently in grades 5, 8, and 10. I am very confused how mandatory vaccinations will improve my children's education. A 2014 Oregon Health Authority study reported 95% fully vaccinated students by seventh grade. Of the remaining 5%, approximately half are partially vaccinated. My youngest had a class size of 38 students in the second grade, I can tell you there are significant differences in how proficient their class is at math and reading, greater than 5% variation for certain. My older children have both sat in classes hijacked by students looking for attention at any cost. They all attend school with children who don't have enough food to eat, who suffer from serious family burdens that cause them to under-perform at school. This affects my children because our district doesn't have the resources to get these students connected to the health & human services they desperately need. They also don't have the resources to offer classes of varying rigor, the students are all mixed together, the academically talented are stunted and the under-performers don't get the encouragement they need. It seems fewer students are developing the confidence needed to follow the path to becoming the productive citizens our school system was designed to produce.

How will mandating vaccination improve student mental health & graduation rates? How will it reduce class size and encourage qualified teachers? I predict that passing this bill will create additional administrative work for our school districts. In our district administrative roles have been trimmed and often one person is doing what would have been several peoples jobs in the past. Mandates, like HB 3063 not only disempowers the adult population of the state of Oregon, but it shifts the funding from the classroom to school administration.

As a person who cares about my children and all children who are the future of Oregon, I can tell you with certainty, I would much rather the mental efforts, the manpower to research and debate this issue go into how to improve the experience of our students in the classroom getting the education they deserve. That means having clean clothes that fit, food to fill their belly, knowing they have a warm, dry, place to sleep, and adults in their life who they trust to care about their well being, so they can focus on learning who they are and who they can become

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinions.

Amy Weinheimer, PhD.
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