

February 28, 2019

To the Legislature:

I am writing to give my reasons as to why I oppose HB-3063.

I am a mother of two thriving and healthy children (ages 11 and 14) who attend public schools in Bend, OR. I have spent endless hours talking with friends, parents, family, doctors, and alternative health care providers as well as reading both sides of this debate. Through my own experiences and knowledge, I feel my children pose no threat to our society not being vaccinated. There is a high level of fear created by the media and pharmaceutical industries going on. Unfortunately, I believe common sense is not part of the discussion.

I believe in science including global warming and I am not how the media has made me out to be as an anti-vax lunatic. I am pro information and as a parent research everything (isn't that my responsibly) to ensure my children are safe and healthy. I research food ingredients, car seats, schools, camps, car safety, schools, places to travel, etc. As a parent I decide what I believe is best for our family and if it does not work, we try something new.

Below please consider why I oppose HB-3063:

1. I believe a mandate of any type to tell me what I must put in my body or my children's body is a violation of my human rights and my freedom. Also, in America we have the right to a public education and to not be discriminated against. This is discrimination. This is a very slippery slope being proposed to say that my children cannot attend public school if they are not vaccinated. Are you going to pass a law in the future that says my children cannot participate in sports (because even homeschooled children can join sports teams & attend extracurricular classes), go to restaurants, be in clubs, attend camps, go to movie theaters, go shopping, travel as we do to other countries, etc? Will they have to wear something to show they are vaccinated or not? Will it come to the point that I have to wear a badge that says what vaccines I have had or not to go anywhere? With many vaccines in development (remember this is a \$50 billion industry) where will the line be drawn? I find it interesting that HIPAA privacy rules does not apply to vaccines, as this is my personal and private information.
2. I am asking you to do your research. Please read the inserts for vaccines as I hope you would a food label. The FDA posts them on their website. There are many conflicting studies as well that causes alarm that I hope you are researching. I don't want my child to be that one that suffers. And why has the government paid almost \$5 billion dollars for vaccine injuries and then the pharmaceutical companies are not liable if they made a mistake? It really makes no sense. Children are injured every day and these are just the families who have gone through the painstaking process to receive a settlement, as I understand it is quite complex and time consuming. One child injured is too much in my opinion for something you are mandating for a right to attend school. Vaccines are NOT 100% safe and I refuse to put something with a list of ingredients that are proven to be harmful (like aluminum) into my child or myself.

3. Have you questioned why are childhood illnesses on the rise and we have the sickest generation of children in history? We do not have the science yet to tell us one factor over another and my common sense tells me there are many contributing factors but I do find it ironic that as more vaccines are put on the market, so is in the increase in childhood illness. More research needs to happen before something can be mandated that COULD hurt someone. Nothing is 100% and vaccines do not go through the usual rigorous studies as many other drugs. This is concerning as well. I believe as a responsible parent I should be on the side of caution when putting anything in my body or that of my child's. And you are trying to take away that right with this bill and hold families hostage that their children cannot attend public school.
4. I am sure you have been ill and needed a prescription filled. You will receive a consult with a pharmacist (this was mandatory for an antibiotic for a strep infection) and then given information on possible side effects. Why does this not happen with vaccines? The doctor or nurse comes into the room and injects a child with known toxins. I believe Senate Bill 649 would ensure more information on vaccines and their dangers be given to families. This makes great sense and supports education. However this seems to be in direct contradiction to this new Bill as if something is mandatory, no information would be given out. This makes no sense. I should just trust you to tell me what I put into my body.
5. I have spent endless hours researching vaccines. I actually did vaccinate my first child until the age of 1 with only DTaP. (Side note why all newborns need a Hep B vaccine 24 hours after birth for a sexually transmitted disease or a disease from dirty needles should be questioned). At the time I was so worried about pertussis as we lived in a big city that I chose to vaccinate as the risk of the disease and being in the hospital outweighed the possible side effects of the vaccine. And I was wrong. She had what I believe was a severe reaction to the DTaP vaccine. She screamed for a few hours and her leg was swollen where the injection was given. I was told this was normal. How anyone can tell me a screaming child that I can't comfort is normal is beyond me. It was heart wrenching and unnatural. I still feel the guilt. And I had not educated myself enough to understand what was happening, as I trusted my doctor. She then developed asthma, which after research I learned is a possible side effect. Thankfully after a few years she grew out of it and I can't imagine what would have happened if we continued vaccinated. Science cannot prove any of this and research will say it was a coincidence, but I struggle with that explanation.
6. All of our bodies are different and react to different medications in different ways. Science is discovering this more and more. Genetic make up and how the body responds to drugs is leading edge research. Again I believe in science and the advancements ahead.
7. Vaccines are not 100% effective or safe. But yet you are mandating what should be put into a child's or my body. The FDA lists vaccine inserts and I hope you are taking the time to read the side effects. The government has paid almost \$5billion for vaccine injuries and that is concerning in itself.
8. I read all food labels to keep processed foods to an absolute minimum. Science tells us processed foods are not good for us. Are you going to mandate what food brands I need to eat next? When my children are sick, we use our home remedies (like my grandmother did) and in most cases a few days later they are fine. Nature likes it that way and it builds their immune system. We have chosen this path because it makes sense. Eat healthy and live a healthy lifestyle you will be healthy. This is how we have chosen to live our lives. We see our physician

once a year for a well child check up and our doctor tells us to keep doing what we are doing. Again my children are thriving and excelling.

9. I pay taxes for my children to attend public schools. They love their schools and community of friends. If you pass this bill I want you to talk to my children and tell them why you have taken away their right to a public school education and all the activities they enjoy. Why you believe putting toxins in their system is a good thing. I am a big supporter of public schools and the wonderful education available. Homeschooling would be very difficult and put our family at financial hardship and I believe hurt what is best for my children and their social development. Again I have done my research and feel for my family public schools are best but support my friends who feel homeschooling is best.
10. As our elected officials you are supposed to look at both sides of this debate. I don't believe you are doing that with such a quick response due to a measles scare. My brother had the measles after receiving the vaccine, it sheds. And naturally there are outbreaks and always have been. To make something mandatory you need to be 100% sure. And the science is not there to support it. I would hope you are spending hours with as many scientists who oppose vaccines because of the ingredients and lack of data to support them as you are to the fear and lobbyist money the pharmaceutical industries are telling you. Nothing is a sure thing and should not be mandatory. We are educated and taught to question. That is all I am doing, I am not being confrontational or trying to buck the system. I am just asking questions and the answers I receive are concerning. And other countries are questioning as well. And their societies are healthier than ours.
11. If this is passed, you will be subjecting children to extremely high doses of vaccines to be caught up. How does that work for a 15 year old that has never been vaccinated? Are there any studies to support such a large amount of vaccines to be given over a short period to make up for the years as California mandated? These are the questions that also need to be asked and science needs to prove to me. Would you go to a doctor and have several vaccines at once?

I appreciate that you have taken the time to read why I oppose HB-3063. I wish I could come to Salem but with the snowstorm this week the passes to drive over are dangerous, along with Bend-LaPine schools cancelled again and this hearing being set up so quickly, I have to stay home.

I believe these hearings should continue to be held over several weeks so you can hear more testimony and gain as many facts as possible. For something to be mandatory, it should take several months if not years of research. And once again, the science does not support 100% that vaccines are safe and effective. There is no magic bullet and everything has a risk. I will risk for myself and my children to not vaccinate and that is my choice and I should not be discriminated for it.

Regards,

Suzanne Monaco

Bend, OR