

Thank you Chair Salinas and members of the House Health Care Committee, my name is Melissa Cochran from McMinnville Oregon and I OPPOSE HB 3036.

This bill declares an emergency as justification to remove non-medical exemptions; meanwhile local news sources instill fear and hostility by falsely reporting that vaccination rates are plummeting across the state.

As we discuss this highly controversial subject, I want to point out that Oregon Health Authority states the MMR vaccination rate for Oregonian school children k-12 was 95.8%, in 2018. The Oxford Vaccine Group states that “to achieve herd immunity for measles, at least 90-95% of the population need to be vaccinated.” As you can see, Oregon students are well within the ideal herd immunity rates for measles infections. Under- and non-vaccinated children are being used as a scapegoat here.

For this current “emergency” in Oregon, there were only four cases of measles and none of the exposure locations were schools. These cases were contained because the individuals stayed home and posed no risk of new public exposures, according to the OHA website.

I believe declaring an “emergency” to take away non-medical exemptions is a fallacious act, and with an already 95.8% MMR vaccination rate, I do not see how this bill can be justified.

This bill would put up unnecessary barriers for children to receive an equal opportunity for education and extracurricular activities by forcing parents to accept a medical intervention as a condition for school enrollment or childcare.

I understand your intentions surrounding this bill, but I urge you to reconsider. Medical freedom without coercion is essential in America.

Please vote NO on HB 3063.

Thank you.