

Dear Representatives:

I have several concerns about HB 3063. Mandatory vaccinations is a hot button for many Oregonians. I am not anti Vaccination but believe this bill can be improved.

1) According to HB 3063, if a child is not current on all vaccinations they will not be allowed in school. Here is a question: If a student is current on 22 out 23 required vaccinations but misses a tetanus shot, is this student a risk for all other students in school? The answer is no. This bill would not allow the student that missed the tetanus booster to attend school even though there is no risk to other students.

Will a non vaccinated student who, for example, had the measles be allowed back into school? A simple blood test will verify their immunity.

This bill needs to delineate what vaccinations are for public safety, what vaccinations are for personal safety ( one example is tetanus) and if naturally acquired immunity is sufficient.

2) HB 3063 line 11, declares that a child would not be allowed to attend ANY school if under immunized. This is an unlimited declaration.

Will this outlaw home schools when the child is under immunized?

What about online schools? If this bill is about reducing risk, then what is the risk for other students online? Will they get measles if immunized and under immunized students are taking the same classes? Of course not.

What if parents with under immunized children that are denied access to public education, band together and start a charter or private school that only allows under immunized students, or immunized students with informed consent, to attend. They pose no risk to the children in public school, as they are quarantined, would they be allowed to go to school?

If this bill were to pass, would eventually under immunized children have to wear a scarlet letter or perhaps have a tattoo on their forearms to protect the immunized? Would public places ( stores, movie theaters, restaurants) have to check each person to see if they are immunized?

How far down this road do we really want to go? If the goal is protecting the immunized ( herd immunity) from the under immunized, then this can easily be accomplished while still protecting free informed choice.

The term school needs to be explained in the light of public safety. This unlimited definition of school just fans the flames and enforces the fear that the government is taking our freedom of choice.

3) This bill declares a health emergency. What is this based on? According to the OHA, the 2017 2 year old rate has been improving. How is this a crisis?

Hopefully, we can come to an agreement to to protect the many while not sacrificing the few. It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

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