

Regarding HB 3063

To the House Health Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony regarding mandatory vaccinations for all school children.

I had never considered not vaccinating my children until some tragic things happened in our family. Our first child, our daughter, died in utero within days on my receiving a vaccination. She was 28 weeks along. As I am adopted, an autopsy was performed with no conclusive evidence because she had no blood in her body by the time we discovered she had died and delivered her. The vaccine I received was supposed to destroy her blood cells in my bloodstream, but not cross the placenta. Of course, in the midst of my grief and trying to understand why, I began to research and discovered that it sometimes does cross the placenta. I never received that shot again while pregnant and went on to deliver 6 healthy children. I was assured when the shot was administered that it was perfectly safe. While this shot is not a vaccine in the sense you are debating today, it does contain similar ingredients to those used in vaccination against contagious diseases.

Upon the birth of my next child, my family doctor suggested a delayed vaccination schedule for my next child who was followed closely by his younger brother. So, we did delay his first vaccinations. After receiving his first round of shots, he developed what appeared to be night terrors. Every night he would have these terrifying episodes about 2 hours after falling asleep. As he grew old enough to describe what was happening.....which was actually not until his teen years.....he was able to describe experiences that I can only attribute to some sort of seizure. His senses would become hypersensitive and even the slightest light or noise would be excruciating. Because a doctor early on had described these as night terrors, we never pursued it. And once we discovered what was happening, he suddenly stopped having them, by that time, he was about 17, so we never were able to really pursue what was happening with him. But our doctor did suspect that it was vaccine caused.

Our second son was given a tetanus shot in the ER after a cut to his head. The doctor threatened to call Child Protective Services if we refused. Within two weeks he was suffering from an extreme fever, pain, and severe lethargy. He couldn't do anything for himself and was so weak he could not eat and had to be spoon fed water. I felt like I was watching my son's life slip away. When the fever broke, he had regressed in his physical and cognitive abilities. Our doctor said it was definitely vaccine damage and to never vaccinate another child of ours again.

When we enrolled the boys in school, our doctor gladly signed the medical exemption. Within a week, I received a call from the county health department. The nurse told me that they could not accept the medical exemption. She said, in order to get a medical exemption, I would need to submit my children to each of the vaccines and have the doctor document the adverse reaction. The only reactions that would count toward the medical exemption would be the adverse

reactions listed on the vaccine manufacturer's warning sheet. She listened to our experience and agreed it would be unsafe to submit our children to the requirements of getting a medical exemption and stated that I should sign the religious exemption since at the time there was no philosophical exemption available. So, that is what we did for the time they were in school.

They have younger brothers and a sister that are still school age and would be impacted by the decision to require all vaccinations on the schedule be given to them to attend school.

Vaccines are not safe for our family. I actually hate that as much as you do because I too would love to have the assurance that I could get them a shot and they would be safe. But while, they may never be exposed to the actual diseases, it is a certainty that they will have a bad reaction to the ingredients of a vaccine. By passing this law, you would be requiring me to submit them to that enormous risk since getting a medical exemption is nearly impossible.

Since it is governments job to serve the people. I have been wondering why the pressure is always put on the parents in this situation. Why is there no legislation requiring the development of testing for genetic incompatibilities with the current formulas? Why is there no political pressure applied to provide safe alternatives for those who have adverse reactions to the current formulas? It seems that would be a better way of addressing concerns about public health. There are always several formulations of medications to address medical conditions. For example, there are several kinds of blood pressure medication because the root cause and the chemical reaction work different on each individual. Doesn't it make more sense to demand this same kind of scenario when we are talking about vaccines, especially when the adverse reactions can have such devastating consequences?

I urge you to vote no on this bill. There are many families like mine that are suffering due to adverse reactions experienced by their children when they were administered a vaccine. To exclude them from school and school occupied facilities without providing for a realistic medical exemption process is unjust. I believe as I stated above that more work can be done to assure the public health AND provide assistance to families who at this time have limited options.

Sincerely,

Michele Hall
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