

Hello,

I am writing to tell you that I oppose HB 3063, the bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon schoolchildren. I am a parent and a registered nurse and this bill concerns me for many reasons. I believe it violates my rights as a parent and as a patient. I also believe it unfairly discriminates against those choosing not to use any one vaccine and their rights to a public education.

From the nursing standpoint, patients have rights to informed consent. Informed consent is not just given prior to procedures, but also prior to medication administration. Vaccines have a similar process by way of sharing the Vaccine Information Sheet. Parents read over the sheet and have discussions with providers about adverse effects from vaccines and any other concerns. Parents and medical providers are then able to make decisions about vaccines and healthcare options for the child. Parents have the ability to weigh the risk/benefit for their own children. They are able to do research independently and make decisions with their own licensed providers. Making vaccines mandatory to attend public school takes all of these rights away. And, evidence from states like California, does not show that making vaccines mandatory improves vaccine "compliance", but rather only takes children out of the public school setting for families choosing not to vaccinate. I believe parents should retain their rights to refuse vaccinations (even just one) without being coerced.

Only 2.6% of students in K-12 are 100% UNVACCINATED. That means of the people who filed for an exemption, ~66% of them PARTIALLY vaccinate their kids!

There are many reasons parents use those exemptions. Perhaps their child has had a reaction to a vaccination that doesn't qualify for a medical exemption, and they have decided to no longer use that vaccine. Perhaps they are using a spaced or reduced schedule (for example, Hepatitis B is only transmitted via blood and body fluids AND studies are showing that infant immunization is only leading to ~50% coverage at age 10....so some parents may decide to wait on this vaccine that is currently required and would now exclude a child from school). There are also religious groups who are morally opposed to the use of vaccines and this violates their religious liberty rights.

I find this bill concerning because some of the included vaccines ARE for diseases that are only transmitted via blood or body fluids, which pose very little concern to anyone other than the child and their family themselves. This now becomes an issue moving away from the argument of "herd or community immunity" and protecting those who are vulnerable or not covered by their vaccine to one of forced vaccinations for all for any reason. Where will this stop? The CDC has been adding vaccines (poorly tested by the way) to the schedules at a rapid pace. Some of the new vaccines have proven to be dangerous (and many physicians are allowing patients to opt out). Those are not currently included in the mandatory list, but who is controlling those vaccines considered mandatory for public education attendance?

There is a lot of gray area that the exemptions currently allow while still keeping Oregon vaccine rates high. As an RN who has done research into many vaccines, my own children ARE currently on schedule, though we did do a modified spacing schedule during administration. My children will not however be getting the Gardasil vaccine. I know this vaccine is currently not on the mandatory list, but again, will it

at some point? Parents should have a right to decide. If a woman has a right to choose for her unborn child, should I not have the same right to choose what's right for my born child?

I hope you will not support this bill along with me.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Sonja Hoyt, mother of 2, RN