

My name is Krista English from Keizer, Oregon, and I oppose HB3063.

I would like to voice my opinion to please vote no on this bill. I am a homeschool parent with fully vaccinated children. While it seems this bill would not effect me, I have concerns over the parental rights it would strip away and am concerned for my fellow Oregonians. This bill takes a drastic move toward overstepping our personal freedom. With our culture's emphasis on being able to be in charge of our bodies, this sends a direct opposite message.

Many people who choose not to vaccinate are not ignorant, like others would like to believe. There are many studies on the dangers of vaccines, and families who have experienced those dangers or who deem it not worth the risk should have the right to do so without being shunned from schools, churches, and many public buildings.

Of concern to me is the section addressing any building which also holds a school or daycare in its facility. Many churches are such buildings as well as other public buildings. Some gyms and recreation centers come to mind. Will this enforce churches to require vaccination records from those who attend or be forced to not have those programs in their buildings? This seems to be a huge step across the line of separation of church and state.

My nephew is a vaccine-injured child who can't qualify for a medical exemption. His seizures started the day of his MMR vaccine, in the office, in front of his doctor. It was witnessed by medical professionals as a direct side-effect if the vaccine. He went on to have seizures for 3 more years, including ones that stopped his breathing, required resuscitation, and required 911 calls as well as many appointments with specialists and tests. Despite all this, he doesn't qualify for a medical exemption, as seizures have been removed from the list to qualify for an exemption, even though listed as a side-effect. This bill would require his family to make the choice between something that could cause severe life-threatening issues, and already has, or being severely limited on school, church, and social activity choices. He is the kind of child the so-called herd immunity is meant to protect. Yet this forces him into a terrible position. He already had to be removed as a patient from his doctor's office and had extremely limited options on what physician would even accept him, based on not qualifying for the medical exemption. This is not a choice people make lightly, to go through this hardship.

While the issues with medical exemptions aren't a part of this bill, it's directly impacted by taking away other methods of being able to claim an exemption. Medical exemptions are nearly impossible to get, even for those with a very obvious need.

Oregon has a high enough percentage of vaccinated population to easily cover the needs for herd immunity. Even the most recent "outbreak" of measles was a very small number with nothing severe. Measles, while contagious, is usually easily managed. I feel this issue is being rushed, when it's not as cut and dry as many may believe. Please vote no and protect the parental choice that is key to our society as well as those children like my nephew who would be in danger to have these vaccines forced on them.

Sincerely, Krista English