

Dear Oregon Legislature:

I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to HB-3063.

I am a physician in private practice in Portland and have served thousands of Oregon families here over the past 14 years. I am a mother. I am a concerned citizen who advocates vaccine safety and who is disturbed that there are not more studies done on vaccine safety before they are injected into our babies and children. I believe all children should have the right to an education in our Oregon schools. And quite frankly, I am appalled that medical interventions and requirements could be decided by the legislature rather than by physicians and informed parents after communication with their healthcare providers based upon what is best for that individual child.

Vaccines are touted to be perfectly safe and yet are not held to the same safety standards as other pharmaceuticals. I have not seen any double-blinded placebo controlled studies on vaccines and this is very concerning. We live in a health conscious community and yet responsible and well-meaning parents are having their children vaccinated with vaccines that neither they themselves nor their doctor know very much about. We all want nothing more than for our kids to be healthy.

Sadly, since my very first year in private practice in 2006, I have seen firsthand that vaccines given to help prevent diseases can cause injury in susceptible individuals. We still do not understand exactly why certain patients are susceptible to vaccine injury but we do know that injuries happen. And when vaccine injuries happen, the pharmaceutical companies that manufacture them are not held responsible for these injuries. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program has awarded approximately \$4.0 billion dollars in compensation since the program started in 1998. These funds come from a trust fund supplied by a surcharge on vaccines. These settlements happen outside of the regular court system and in a special vaccine court. Does this not seem concerning that vaccine injuries cannot be handled in our regular court system?

Today's children are the sickest generation this country has ever seen. Sensory processing disorders, food allergies, asthma, learning disabilities, developmental delays, autism and autoimmune conditions are all on the rise. As a practicing physician, I am concerned that it is no mere coincidence that our children's health has declined as the number of recommended vaccines has increased. It is recommended that my son get over 3 times as many vaccines as I received as a child in order to be fully vaccinated. When will this stop?!?!

Also concerning to me is that HB-3063 deprives children of their right to an education. The parents of my patients who vaccinate their children on alternative schedules or not at all are well educated and informed with their decisions. I do not think that these parents will change their minds, put aside all of the information they have gathered and the information they have received from their doctor's and fully vaccinate their children. But if their children cannot attend Oregon schools and parents do not want to homeschool then they will be forced to move elsewhere. Oregon schools will lose money. California has been through a similar thing when they passed SB-277 which mandated vaccines to enter schools. I have a colleague in private practice in California who was forced to pull her kids out of schools when this happened and she has good reason to choose not to fully vaccinate with her history of severe autoimmune issues in her family. I do not think Oregon should follow in California's footsteps.

If keeping Oregon's kids healthy is really the focus of this bill then I urge you as a physician, mother and concerned citizen to please help push for vaccine safety studies, allow physicians and parents to jointly decide what is the best vaccination plan for each child and allow all kids to have access to an education in our Oregon schools.

Thank you for reading this & for your consideration,

Best Regards,

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