

Dear Legislators:

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB 3063. I do not believe it should be the right of the state to make decisions for my children. I have degrees in biology, technical writing, and I am a trained medical librarian with an Information Science degree, and as a former research assistant for the Illinois State Legislature, I am no stranger to legal research, or public policy. I do not make decisions about vaccination because some celebrity told me to do so. I do not make my decisions about vaccination based on something I read once on Facebook. I have done extensive research, torn apart medical journals, and I have come to the conclusion that vaccination is not a black and white issue. There are too many facets to these decisions for a right or wrong answer to exist. Vaccines are not a one-size-fits all form of "health" care. Do not be fooled that the science is settled on this issue. Science is never settled.

We moved here to Oregon from California four years ago today, in hopes that our children would have better opportunities, in a smaller and safer community. Indeed, that has happened. We have built an amazing community of like-minded families. My children are thriving in their new schools here in Oregon. My oldest child is an honors student with a 4.0 GPA and an avid volunteer in their community.

My children are mostly vaccinated, however, I have chosen to opt out of a few vaccines that are on the Oregon required schedule, but were not on the schedule in our previous state. We have mostly stopped vaccinating because of some health concerns with both of my children after their last rounds of vaccinations, and while our physician is in agreement with our choices for our children, these reasons would not be grounds for a medical exemption as laid out per CDC guidelines. Therefore, my thriving children would not be able to attend public school anymore if this bill passes.

I would like to point out as part of my opposition that this bill lays out the groundwork for the state to mandate other vaccines in the future. There are many more vaccines in development, and other current vaccines that are not on the current schedule, which could potentially become mandatory. This is a very scary thought. While I believe your intentions to be pure, in your quest to "protect" some children, you are also putting others in jeopardy. It's like a game of Russian Roulette, and it is not okay to play this game with our children.

I wonder if you have thought of the financial impacts that this would have on the state. How many children have an exemption to maybe even a few vaccines yet would be forced out of school due to this proposed government overreach? How many parents would have to quit work to stay home with their children, rather than be willing to let the state to force them to do something against their beliefs? How many more children will be vaccine injured and become a burden on the public system for the remainder of their lives?

I am also concerned about the impact this would have on the public education system? If so many parents choose to keep their children home rather than compromise their beliefs, how many schools will be forced to consolidate, or close? How many education professionals would lose their jobs? It is my understanding that an estimated 31,000 children in Oregon have a non-medical exemption. That is a large impact, not only financially, but also by way of violating the rights of those approximately 31,000 children to a free education.

There are so many more reasons why this bill sets up a very slippery slope of government overreach. Therefore, I urge you to vote NO on HB 3063.

Thank you for your time.

Diana Hatley