Dear Health Committee members:

I am writing today to oppose HB 3063. I am a constituent, mother, and educator. There are many concerns I have for this bill and I won't go into all them but number one is it goes against parental rights and medical freedom. It discriminates against families and coerces them to fully vaccinate or not be able to attend public, private or charter schools. Even those who choose to homeschool would not be allowed to participate in special classes, sports, special services in their local public school which is their right. I believe all children should have access to an education regardless of vaccination status and this bill will deny around 31,000 children access to a free and fair education.

Another big concern of mine is that it also goes against religious beliefs. One big reason many people choose to not vaccinate is their pro-life beliefs. Certain vaccines (MMR, Varicella, MMRV, DTaP-IPV/Hib, Hep A, and more) were made with the use of aborted fetal cells. When you remove non-medical exemptions you are forcing people to go against their personal religious beliefs, which should be protected.

This bill is unnecessary. Per OHA, all Oregon kids in school are at or above the "herd immunity" threshold. What we have now is working. Our vaccination rates have not dropped in Oregon in the past 20 years. Oregon has a very high and above national average vaccine rate. 94% statewide and continues to go UP according to the OHA. Currently only 2.6% of all school students are unvaccinated. Not 7.5% which the media and even doctors are saying. Per OHA roughly 50% of those with an exemption on file are fully vaccinated for communicable disease, many opting out of one Hep A or Hep B dose. Oregon school children have 95.8% vaccine rates for MMR and 97% for 7th graders. Much misinformation and fear is being spread right now about the measles as a way to get people to support mandates like these but when you look at all the numbers there is no emergency or worry here in Oregon. Also a very similar bill was also brought up 4 years ago and thankfully was opposed yet still we have had no major outbreaks due to a lack of mandatory vaccinations which would warrant this bill.

Vaccines are not one size fits all. They have been ruled "unavoidably unsafe" which means there is a risk. When there is risk there needs to be choice. We as American citizens deserve medical freedom. Don't you want that for yourself and for your families. This is a slippery slope once it is started.

I hope you will truly listen to both sides, look at the science on both sides and realize there are many concerns and it comes down to informed consent, medical freedom, and parental rights, which I hope you all support. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3063.

~Megan