

Dear Senators, Dear Representatives – Dear Friends of Democracy:

I oppose HB 3063.

HB 3063 is an example of forced cultural assimilation. It stands on the ground that certain parents and communities are ignorant, and need to be forced to comply with a more culturally developed, well-educated people. Most of the statements against anyone who would oppose this mandated medical intervention are scornful and derisive, as though these “uneducated, ignorant savages don’t know any better” and need to be assimilated into the dominant culture so that they no longer pose a threat.

Do you really want to stand on the side of history that mandates cultural assimilation of one people over another? Consider the horrific past of Native American cultural assimilation. For example, in 1886, a United States Indian Agent of California stated:

“The parents of these Indian children are ignorant, and know nothing of the value of education, and there are no elevating circumstances in the home circle to arouse the ambition of the children.”

This is also what is being said of anyone who opposes vaccination, or even questions it. There is no room for cultural dialogue and acceptance of differences because of the fear that is driving this vaccination movement.

You are stripping democratic rights, personal freedom, religious freedom, freedom of belief and cultural lifestyle – freedom of self-determination, because you believe your safety and wellbeing are at risk by my freedom.

In a democracy, we have to learn to live together, or there is no democracy. We have to be able to have freedom of choice, to trust in dialogue, conversation, and to accept the reality of diverse points of view.

The aggressive, medical point of view behind this mandate is using science as a religious weapon – saying that the “truth” is that everyone needs to comply. Not only is there still a legal, cultural, and democratic debate about this issue, for the science behind it is most certainly still in question, but it is forced cultural assimilation if mandated, for it involves individual personal, family, and cultural health and freedom of choice. It is akin to forced sterilization and forced medication, making it a crime to be a “born as you are”, un-vaccinated human being.

This legislation is a “fear of the other”, a fear of “dirty immigrants and uneducated people”, in the form of fear of pathogens. It is an unfounded fear, and an unconscious move towards unnecessary, undemocratic, social control.

Please protect human rights, personal and religious freedom, and medical free choice! HB 3063 is anti-democratic, and is anti-freedom.

The leading causes of death to school-aged children (according to the CDC) are by far violence: violent accidents; suicide; homicide. That is the real emergency. It is not a medical emergency, but a social emergency.

Equality, human rights, sufficient income, protection against violence – these are the causes you have been elected to fight for. Let’s do something about the real problems!

HB 3063 is a violent, aggressive bill against human freedom of choice.

Why push through medical (corporate) fascism in the name of science, when the real issues affecting Oregonians are so much more important.

Let us come together and decide for ourselves as a community in freedom how to solve social and health concerns, and not enforce a narrow-minded, profit-focused medical paradigm that takes away human rights.

Do not let the corporatocracy rule our democracy!

This Oregon bill, HB 3063, is being rushed through without sufficient citizen input and human rights considerations at the exact time when Merck is in the midst of a very serious and losing federal court battle about the trustworthiness and safety of their so-called scientific methods and products (see, for example, *Jennifer Robi vs. Merck and Kaiser Permanente*).

Our freedom of choice is now in your hands! Families have a right to think for themselves. Call it religious freedom, medical freedom of choice, or personal freedom of thinking – it is a human right upon which our nation and state is based, and HB 3063 takes this freedom away. Do not force cultural assimilation ever again.

Please support our democratic freedoms and stop this bill!

Sincerely,

Michael Givens

Happy Valley, Clackamas County, Oregon