

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Charis Peters, and I'm a born and raised Oregonian and mother to five (partially vaccinated) children. I am writing to respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB3063, which would remove the right to philosophical and religious exemptions for kids in public schools and other childcare facilities.

This is first an issue of parental rights, and medical freedom; not an "anti-vax" issue, or public health emergency. The number of measles cases in the current local outbreak is not an unusual number. There have been 4 cases and no deaths in Oregon. The fear-mongering in the media has been successful to stir up a passionate dispute aimed at a minority in our communities. A minority of partially or non-vaccinated children which has not in any way threatened public health at this time.

There is an *unavoidable* risk of injury or dying from any vaccine, however minimal. There is also an *unavoidable* risk of contracting or dying from a disease, just by living. I personally know a person affected by both a vaccine and a vaccine preventable disease: my grandfather is deaf in one ear because of mumps as a child, and a close friend of my sister had her first baby die from SIDS immediately following his 4 month vaccinations.

Because all of life is a risk, we cannot begin down the slippery slope of taking children's healthcare decisions from the hands of their parents and the doctor of their choice, and putting it into the hands of the state. Strong families make a strong America. To preserve strong and healthy families and communities, I oppose HB3063.

Thank you for reading this taking my concerns into consideration.