From: <u>Jennifer Burkhart</u> **Subject:** I oppose HB3063

Date: Friday, March 1, 2019 2:46:02 PM

Hello.

Three weeks ago, my husband & I got a call we've been waiting for, for TWO years. Our oldest son finally got into a great Montessori school. He just had his first day there, this previous Monday. He is also partially vaccinated, due to extensive research on the inadequate safety studies after he suffered eczema and mobility delays. He does not qualify for a medical exemption in the state of Oregon, as the law is currently written. Eczema is an autoimmune issue, but a severe enough disease to qualify for an exemption. I fully believe if we were to vaccinate further, he will suffer additional adverse reactions. If this bill passes, he will not be able to attend a wonderful school that we have waited so long for. He is scared for the vote, and is scared that he can't go back to school. Homeschool will not be a viable solution for us because we wouldn't be able to afford to live here long-term. We would need to move out of state, but we love Oregon and want to stay.

Only 2.7% of Oregon schoolchildren currently hold a philosophical or religious exemption. There are many reasons parents use exemptions. Perhaps their child has had a reaction to a vaccination that doesn't qualify for a medical exemption, and so they choose to not longer use that vaccine, even if they use others. Perhaps they are using a spaced out or reduced schedule. They may be a member of a religion (such a Jehovah's Witness), which is morally opposed to the use of vaccination.

A vast majority of Oregonians DO vaccinate. Herd immunity IS working. We do not have an outbreak problem, only 4 people in the state contracted measles, and it wasn't in a school. There is no emergency. There's no reason for this bill, it helps NO ONE, but it certainly will hurt many children and deny them a right to a public education. The bill will NOT keep unvaccinated children out of schools, so what is this bill really about? The "threat" of disease is still there, through the medically fragile, those who do not seroconvert (vaccine failure) and those recently vaccinated with a live vaccine. The diseases WILL ALWAYS be present, and the vectors of disease (people) WILL ALWAYS be present.

The current exemptions allow for personal medical choice, bodily autonomy, and uphold religious practice, while still keeping every child healthy and vaccination rates high. Again, this bill ISN'T the answer to a public health problem, because there is no health problem in the state of Oregon. There WILL be if more people are coerced into injections (see how CA is doing).

I oppose HB 3063, the bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon schoolchildren. I believe parents should retain their rights to refuse vaccinations without being coerced, and I believe ALL children should have access to an education regardless of vaccination status.

I hope you will OPPOSE this bill along with myself, my family, and so many other Oregon residents.

Thank you for reading, Jennifer Burkhart Portland

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