

Dear Oregon Legislators,


I am writing as an Oregon parent who home educated all four of her children. When my children were born, the public concern on vaccination risks was present then and my husband and I personally chose to vaccinate on the recommended schedule. I understand that vaccines do save lives. I have since then had to reconsider my position as to how they affect us personally as a family. We have three children that have chronic health conditions and autoimmunity with weakened their immune systems. Multiple health care professionals have warned up that their offspring should avoid vaccinations for the risks they purpose to their health.

Besides my family's health concerns, I strongly oppose this bill because I believe it is not the government's position to make medical decisions for individual children, or families and I feel strongly that this bill is wrong in giving government the authority to require a child to lose out on their education or child care, due to their vaccine status. This is why health care providers and parents should work together in caring for children. It is my hope that you will not allow this bill to pass.

Another reason i oppose this bill is that that babies have immature immune systems which are in the process of developing. They are learning how to respond from a cellular level to the things they come in contact with. This process goes on for about the first six years of life, but is most vulnerable in the first year. It is a process that ultimately sets up an immune system's responses which carry on throughout their entire life and giving vaccines to babies under the age of one causes damage to their immature immune systems. Our family has an overactive immune system that responds to multiple allergens from the environment and also to foods. We don't want a mandated vaccine schedule that would further add demand on the immune systems but instead would prefer the freedom of choice to give vaccines when our babies and children are able to deal with them.

In summary, I believe the exemptions are important parent of parental rights to choose what is medically right for their children, with the guidance of their health care professionals. Please do not ask Oregon parents to make such hard decisions causing education and health values to conflict with one another. I think you are ultimately asking them to become residents of another state. My own adult children aren't feeling very good about their state right now and talking about possibly having to raise their children elsewhere. I believe this is a sad day, having been born and raised here.

Sincerely,

 Tammy Knutz