

Rachel Mitchell

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Chairwoman Salinas and members of the House Healthcare Committee,

I am writing as a proud Oregonian; a college educated teacher turned homeschooler; a deeply devoted Christian; a loving, protective mother; and a citizen concerned for my freedom. I strongly oppose HB 3063 and humbly request that you vote no on this bill.

I oppose this bill as an Oregonian who loves the kindness and care we in our state have for one another despite our differing beliefs and opinions. This bill has the potential to single out and oppress those families who choose not to vaccinate.

I oppose this bill as an educated person capable of an individual thought and independent research. I am not "stupid", I do not believe the earth is flat, and I do not rely on "junk science" as some have accused. I have read actual vaccine inserts (including ingredient lists, contraindications and adverse effects), I have read studies in reputable medical journals, I follow mainstream news updates and I have spoken directly with numerous medical professionals. Vaccine science is not settled. Vaccines are pharmaceuticals with risks just like any other on the market, with the only difference being that these pharmaceuticals are deemed "unavoidably unsafe" and their manufacturers are protected from any liability. There has never been a double-blind, placebo-controlled study to prove the safety of individual vaccines, let alone the entire vaccine schedule as prescribed by the CDC and required by the state of Oregon in this mandate.

I oppose this bill as a homeschooler. I have chosen to educate my children at home, and it has required great sacrifice. There are thousands of families in our state who would be forced by this bill to choose between doing what believe is best for their children's health (not vaccinating) or quitting their jobs to homeschool. There are thousands of families in our state who cannot afford to make the choice to educate their children at home and will be forced to vaccinate against their will and beliefs in order to continue providing for their families. For all the families that do choose to pull their children out of school to avoid this mandate, the state will also lose funding, thousands of lost dollars multiplied by thousands of children. This bill also sets a precedent and creates a very slippery slope. While this particular bill goes after public school children, including home-based charter school students, it opens the door to mandates for homeschooled children as well, not to mention teachers, parents and the adult population in general.

I oppose this bill as a Christian. There are many ingredients in vaccines that go against my religious beliefs including animal blood products and cell lines extracted from aborted human babies. I am passionately pro-life and I refuse to inject my children or myself with a product developed using murdered children.

I oppose this bill as a loving, protective mother. My children are my number one priority and I have too many concerns with the safety and efficacy of vaccines to allow my government to force me to vaccinate them.

I oppose this bill as a concerned citizen. This country prides itself on personal freedom. Bodily autonomy is paramount to personal freedom. If I cannot choose what goes into my own body (or those of my children), what freedom do I have?

Please vote no on HB 3063.

Sincerely,

Rachel Mitchell