

From: [Sheila Mcgonigal](#)
To: [HHC Exhibits](#)
Subject: HB 3063
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Mr. Chair and Committee Members

My name is Sheila McGonigal I reside in Hillsboro, Oregon. I'm submitting this written testimony in favor of HB 3063.

First a bit of background for you. I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disorder in 2003 at the age of 43. I did not find out until 2005 when I was applying for employment at a hospital and had a routine vaccine titer, that I was not immune to Rubeola (measles). The medication I take for my autoimmune disorder prevents me from getting live vaccines. So I am unable to get any vaccine including the MMR because it is live. Even if I go off my medication, there is still a 50% chance I would contract the measles virus if I got the vaccine. This is per my infectious disease doctor and primary care physician. Hence the reason live vaccines are contraindicated for me. Per the CDC website on vaccines it is clear about what vaccines an immunocompromised patient can have. In my case the risk of complications are high, not just because of my autoimmune disease, but also because of the health issues I have as a result of my autoimmune disease. Because of my autoimmune disorder I have many other chronic illnesses. If I were exposed to and contracted the measles virus it could lead to life threatening complications.

During the recent outbreak of measles in Clark County and Multnomah County and number of exposure sites, my health care providers felt it was necessary for me to stay out of the general population as much as possible. I was told if I did go out I needed to wear a mask every time. So I have been pretty much home bound since the outbreak began. When I do have to go out I'm wearing a mask. Funny thing is people see me wearing a mask and assume (incorrectly so) that I'm sick! So in addition to the fact it is uncomfortable and inconvenient to wear a mask when I go out, I get to deal with rude people thinking I have something contagious. While people who don't vaccinate want the right to choose, what about my right to choose to come and go as I please without wearing a mask and without being repeatedly stopped and questioned by rude people who are worried I have something they can catch?!

I support HB 3063 because I believe vaccinations keep our children safe from preventable diseases. However it isn't just protecting our children from completely preventable diseases, it's protecting people such as myself who can't have the vaccine, or have medical conditions that would be seriously compromised by contracting a highly contagious disease such as measles.

I consider myself to be an open minded individual. I have no problem accepting your, political beliefs, how you identify in terms of gender, or your religious beliefs. However I can not and will not support people who are against getting vaccines for their children. While these parents feel it is there right and choice to choose to vaccinate or not, it is not their right to put my life or the lives of others in danger because of their choice not to vaccinate.

There is not one shred of credible evidence that vaccines cause Autism. As far as other risks from vaccines, the benefit of protecting children with vaccinations that are recommended far out weigh any risk. There is a much larger risk to the children who aren't vaccinated, who contract a preventable disease from complications. In addition there is the huge health risk to the population of people who can't have the vaccine or have medical conditions that contracting a communicable disease would cause.

There has been mention of Brown v. Board of Education and Nazi concentration camps. The reasoning is that preventing unvaccinated children from attending school is a form of segregation. As of right now and for the foreseeable future until this measles epidemic is over, I'm effectively segregated from the population for my own safety because people chose not to vaccinate. I have had no choice in this matter.

Food allergies have been a problem for a long time. There has been NO problem with telling people they can't send their children to school with food containing peanut products. However it's OK that people can send their children to school unvaccinated.

The only exemptions that should be allowed from vaccination should be medical. While I feel you can choose any religion you like, I do not support the notion that religion is an excuse for not vaccinating.

In the interest of the safety and health of those people like myself who can't have vaccines for medical reasons I believe HB 3063 should be passed. Parents will say I'm taking their rights away to make a personal choice about vaccinations. I would respond they are putting my life and the lives of other medically compromised at risk. They are taking away our rights to live the healthiest life we can, while living being medically compromised.

Therefore I wholeheartedly support HB 3063.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Sheila McGonigal
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