

**From:** Rebekah Rydholm <[rebekah.rydholm@gmail.com](mailto:rebekah.rydholm@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 1, 2019 12:27 AM

**To:** Rep Salinas <[Rep.AndreaSalinas@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.AndreaSalinas@oregonlegislature.gov)>; Rep Hayden <[Rep.CedricHayden@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.CedricHayden@oregonlegislature.gov)>; Rep Nosse <[Rep.RobNosse@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.RobNosse@oregonlegislature.gov)>; Rep Alonso Leon <[Rep.TeresaAlonsoLeon@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.TeresaAlonsoLeon@oregonlegislature.gov)>; Rep Boles <[Rep.DenycBoles@OregonLegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.DenycBoles@OregonLegislature.gov)>; Rep Drazan <[Rep.ChristineDrazan@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.ChristineDrazan@oregonlegislature.gov)>; Rep KenyGuyer <[Rep.AlissaKenyGuyer@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.AlissaKenyGuyer@oregonlegislature.gov)>; Rep Noble <[Rep.RonNoble@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.RonNoble@oregonlegislature.gov)>; Rep Greenlick <[Rep.MitchGreenlick@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.MitchGreenlick@oregonlegislature.gov)>

**Subject:** Thank you

Madame Chair, Vice-Chairs, and members of the Committee,

I wanted to take a minute to thank you for your time, attentiveness and helpful questions during the hearing on HB 3063. You all helped each one of us who were able to testify to feel heard, and I very much appreciate that.

Many of the arguments raised during the hearing centered on the science surrounding vaccinations - whether they are beneficial, harmful, a mixed bag, or still an unknown.

I ask you to consider that the real matter at stake in this bill is actually not about whether or not vaccination is a good or bad policy. You don't even have to know the answer to that question to know how to vote on this bill, because the underlying question is much more straightforward.

**The foundational issue here is human rights.** The choice a family makes about a medical procedure does not make their children less than human. EVERY CHILD should be educated. Children who are in jail for heinous crimes are educated, but this bill not only quarantines students who are NOT sick, who have NOT been exposed to a vaccine-preventable disease, who have done NOTHING wrong, it also says that we as a society are unwilling to educate them. They are unworthy to be a part of our community. They are unworthy to learn.

I grew up learning - in school, in fact - that in America, we don't do that kind of thing. We don't treat people that way. It's mean. It's wrong. It's unjust. That only happens in OTHER countries, and America even tries to show them a better way, where everyone has a chance and a voice. It is at the very core of a true democracy that the citizens MUST be educated. I am so sad that we are willing to put the education of our children on the table as expendable - a bargaining chip. I didn't think that I lived in that kind of country. I hope and pray that I don't.

Please, show EVERY ONE of our children that they have value. We CAN find ways to support and protect the immunocompromised in our communities, and it DOES NOT require trampling on the human rights of others.

I appreciate your time.

Respectfully,  
Rebekah Rydholm