

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express adamant opposition to House Bill 3063, which will “remove ability of parent to decline required immunizations on behalf of child for reason other than child’s indicated medical diagnosis.”

My first concern is the IMPOSSIBILITY of receiving a medical exemption in the state of Oregon.

My son was vaccinated according to the CDC schedule for the first 6 months of his life. At his 6 month well baby visit, he received 5 vaccinations. He screamed for 3-4 hours and then slept for 24 hours. When he woke, he could no longer focus his gaze. He stared off in the distance, eyes rolled slightly back into his head. He had a fever over 104 in the armpit. My brilliant baby, who already knew 5 words, no longer spoke. I called his pediatrician’s office panicked over the next few days and was continually told that this was a *normal* vaccine reaction- I didn’t need to bring him in. He proceeded to show signs of the flu within a week of his vaccinations. He contracted the flu from the flu vaccine. He developed a rash on his neck and arms that seems to be permanent. There is nothing *normal* about this vaccine reaction. We tried to get a medical exemption, but the primary care provider told us not to bother. It is next to impossible to receive a medical exemption, we are told, and they will not approve this exemption just because our child was injured from a vaccine.

My second concern is the “one size fits all” attitude about vaccinations. Everyone has a unique medical history and family medical history to consider. The vaccine inserts list the populations who should not receive the vaccine. I have an autoimmune disease, and a common contraindication found on vaccine inserts is having a parent with an autoimmune disease. In my son’s case, the DAPTACEL (dTAP) vaccine states on page 5, line 56-59 “If any of the following events occur within the specified period after administration of a whole-cell pertussis vaccine or a vaccine containing an acellular pertussis component, the decision to administer DAPTACEL should be based on careful consideration of potential benefits and possible risks.” He reacted with nearly every event listed. This is straight from the vaccine insert. The vaccine manufacturers themselves recognize vaccines are not a one size fits all answer to our problems. It would break my heart to see my child sick with a communicable disease. That’s hypothetical. It actively broke my heart to see my child slip into a state of encephalopathy. My vaccine-injured child was completely vaccinated in the dTAP series when he brought home pertussis. All that heartache, pain, and permanent damage- and the vaccination did not even protect him.

Each vaccine lists possible side effects ranging from a low-grade fever to death. Yes, I have had to sign a waver saying my kid may die from vaccination! Our pediatrician shamed me into signing it- and for a few days I had valid concerns I would lose my son. We know families who have lost a child to a vaccine injury. And the state of Oregon wants to take away my right to choose. The risks and contraindications are listed right in the insert. Will my younger son react the same way to vaccines? I prefer to skip the heartache, and the lifelong health struggles, and not find out. Where there is risk, there must be choice. Or we are not free at all.

House bill 3063 is a gross violation of my constitutional rights. I have the right to exercise my religious preferences. As a Christian, this means I am pro-life. There is no situation in which it is permissible for me to endorse abortion. Several vaccines, most notably, the MMR vaccine are made with human cells, tissue from a precious, unborn child of God. The MMR vaccine contains WI-38 human diploid lung fibroblasts. Those opposed to my religious liberty will say that there no human cells in the final vaccine. That WI-38 lung cells from a living soul was just part of the process. Even if this *was* (it is not) proven, the ends do not justify the means in my religion. Robert Kennedy Jr. recently won a lawsuit proving that nobody is testing these vaccines for safety, many false claims are made about their contents. There is no research to back these claims. It is also true that creating a live virus is messy, the virus jumps around. Nobody knows the exact amounts in each given vaccination. On religious grounds, many people are vegan and vegetarian. There is no such thing as a vegan vaccine. They are not cruelty free by any stretch of the imagination. Forcing vaccination is a blatant disregard of religious freedom.

For these reasons, I urge you dismiss House Bill 3063. I am not anti-vaccination. I am pro-choice. When I weigh out the risks and benefits of vaccination, doing my due diligence and reading the vaccine inserts, my injured child especially does not fit into a one-size-fits-all vaccine program. We exercise our right to pick the vaccines, along with our pediatrician, that are low risk for us, and we delay vaccination. We never receive more than one vaccination per appointment. If HB 3063 passes, we won't be legally able to exercise these common sense safety practices *recommended by our doctor*. If we could morally receive the MMR vaccine and knew that there was no chance of serious harm, of course we would vaccinate our children! Everything we choose to do is for their safety. We continually seek counsel from our doctors and discuss risks and benefits. It's OUR responsibility as parents. For religious reasons, my family cannot in good conscience receive a handful of vaccines. I respect the religious rights of others, who live under Old Testament law and cannot mix their blood with the blood of animals. I hear the concerns of the morally vegan and vegetarian community. Vaccines are great for the population they serve, which is the majority of people! A mere 2.6% of students in Oregon's schools are unvaccinated- most exempt students are not *completely* vaccinated, opting out of just one or two vaccines. My son was injured by a vaccine. He is a victim of the rigorous CDC schedule. This proposed legislation discriminates against the vaccine injured- our most vulnerable and helpless population. My son has a right to pursue good health. He also has a right to public education. Don't let him get lost in the statistics. On medical and moral grounds, I ask you to oppose this disgusting attempt to take away my child's right to education and to silence the voice of the vaccine- injured and the morally unable.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter,

Rebecca Meyer

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