

Dear Committee Members on Health Care,

I am writing with great concern for House Bill 3063 that would eliminate non-medical vaccine exemptions for school children. I have read the co-sponsors' support of this bill and their reasoning, and I would like to ask that the committee consider the following counterpoints as you move forward.

There have been fewer than 15 deaths from measles since 1999, with far more children injured from vaccines themselves.

Pharmaceutical companies that manufacture vaccines have 100% immunity from any injuries or deaths that occur due to their vaccines.

\$4 billion has been paid to victims of vaccine injury and death by the US tax payers, and this only takes into account official cases reporting vaccine injury and death.

My husband and I decided to vaccinate our two children, who both experience long-term health issues as a result. We did not report our vaccine injury because we did not connect the dots at the time. However, I have documentation from our healthcare providers showing neuro-stereotypies and severe respiratory issues within days of routine childhood vaccines.

Scientific, fact-based research is compromised by the conflicts of interest arising when top executives at the CDC are close allies with and financial investors in Pharmaceutical companies.

I would also ask you to consider the accuracy of the premises on which this bill is based. The claim is that we must achieve 95% vaccination rates to achieve 'herd immunity'. This is a false premise, and here is why: If this bill passes and 100% of children are vaccinated, the rate in the wider community (adults and children) will still be much lower. This is because the vast majority of adults have not received boosters and therefore are effectively not protected or have limited protection. We know this to be true because the CDC itself recommends all adults get boosters due to the known waning of vaccine protection. Therefore, forcing all of our children to be vaccinated will not achieve 95% coverage nor is 95% needed to keep us from having major outbreaks.

Also, the number of exemptions in Oregon is drastically overstated, as a child missing even just one booster is counted the same as a child without any vaccinations. The true rate is 2.6 percent.

This bill title "declares an emergency." However, only a few people were diagnosed with measles in Oregon during the latest "outbreak," and the death rate for measles is less than 1/10 of one percent. How can measles be considered an emergency when the

aforementioned issues are not emergencies? All evidence suggests lawmakers are not viewing this issue in its proper context.

The sensible public policy lawmakers speak of should include a parent's right to make medical decisions for their own child without government involvement or mandate, and this Oregonian value is essential to our society. Parental choice is not only absolutely necessary in such a situation; it is a parent's RIGHT. How in good conscious can we have a broad mandate forcing parents to put something into their children's bodies that has been proven to cause harm in some children? The 'threat' from measles simply does not justify forcing vaccines onto people.

As one of your constituents, I ask that the committee take these concerns to heart. Continue the current protocol, where a parent must watch educational videos and get their pediatrician's signature to opt out of certain vaccines if they feel that is the best option for their child. But please do not force a government mandate in response to a media hysteria based on a few cases of a treatable illness.

Sincerely,
Patrice Lowes
District 3