

March 1, 2019

Members of The Committee,

My name is Coby Knifong and I am a constituent residing in Gresham. I am the mother to five incredible children whose health and well being is one of the top concerns of me being their parent. I have chosen to delay fully immunizing my children due to the serious repercussions I experienced after receiving the MMR at 15 months old. I started having seizures within 24 hours of receiving the MMR vaccine.

Vaccine injury is prevalent in my family. Vaccine injury has seriously affected my older brother's first born son who had repeated seizures for the first 7 years of his life after receiving the CDC recommended doses of vaccines within his first 2 years of life. My younger brother's youngest son's health was compromised after receiving the CDC recommended doses of vaccines by the time he was 2 years old. My nephew will forever struggle with severe asthma and ADHD.

Two of my first cousins have children who birthed perfectly healthy babies into the world but after following and receiving the CDC's recommended vaccines on schedule, by the time both of my cousin's toddlers were 2 years old, one was diagnosed as highly functioning autistic and the other child was diagnosed with Aspergers. Neither child will go on to live a normal life due to the consequences of vaccine injury.

My family has a predisposition towards vaccine injury. There is no disputing my testimony of vaccine injury or the injuries of my family members. The risk of my children being vaccine injured is extremely high and most likely possible. The state has made medical exemptions almost impossible to obtain, otherwise we would pursue this avenue. In our state, my child would have to receive a vaccine, display a serious vaccine injury, and then proceed to obtain a medical exemption AFTER he/she was vaccine injured!

I am here to oppose HB 3063. Parents need to be able to exercise religious liberty, a fundamental right, regarding what to put into their children's bodies, and the state should respect that. Parents also need to be able to make informed choices about our children's care based on their specific situation (or family history) and not be forced to choose between educating or vaccinating their child.