

My name is Meredith Bennett and I reside in Clackamas County. I am here today to oppose House Bill 3063. This bill is discriminatory and simply bad economic policy.

Like many here today, I was fully vaccinated as a child and a major proponent of vaccines growing up. Always up-to-date, I proudly carried my International Certificate of Vaccination with me at all times, just to be "safe." I was in college when Gardasil 9 came to market and my sister and I were quick to join the One Less movement. You can imagine our shock and confusion, when after receiving her third dose of the vaccine my sister became disabled, had to quit her high-profile job, and ultimately rip through her savings and accrue debt to pay for the countless healthcare bills that ensued. Autoimmune disease. Guillain Barre. Fibromyalgia. Kidney issues. How could this happen to my sister when our doctors' had said all vaccines were safe for everyone, full stop? It was then that we started investigating. The findings have kept us up at night for years.

The next few years were devastating. Had my sister been harmed by any other drug, she could have sought legal recourse. But nevertheless, my sister persisted. We learned about the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act that Regan signed into law in 1986, and that pharmaceutical companies are not liable for vaccine injuries. Instead, a special vaccine court was established in 1990 to handle these cases, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. Follow the money and come to find out that for every vaccine a patient purchases, a portion of that goes to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, which funds the settlements of that court. So while the companies that inject these products into our babies earn \$50 billion in profits for each vaccine added to the schedule, we as citizens have been on the hook to pay for the nearly \$4 billion in settlements for injuries and deaths doctors have reported through VAERS. It took seven relentless, years, but my sister finally received a small settlement.

As a cutting-edge technology marketer, I understand that mandating laws like these are not about getting the less than 2% of unvaccinated children or those on an alternate schedule up-to-date, it's about the opportune costs in a liability free market of getting these products in the hands of every child in America.

Like any food or drug, vaccines are not a one size fits all approach. Later blood work has shown that my daughter, sister and I share the same genetic mutation that makes us more easily compromised by the compounds found in vaccines. And the FDA has never studied the long-term impact of high quantities of ingredients like mercury, aluminum, formaldehyde, and polysorbate 80 used in vaccines. Nor has there been a vaccinated vs. unvaccinated study. It is my RIGHT as an informed American consumer to decide what goes into my child's body, whether it's ingredients served on the dinner table, used on their skin, or injected into her bloodstream.

If we can learn anything from California's SB277, it is that mandating vaccines will not change the minds of the vaccine safety community. It will simply spur a potential annual loss of more than \$400 million to our already underfunded schools in Oregon as the 31,000+ exempt families pick up and move to another state. I urge you to reconsider this bill. Thank you.