

Dear Fellow Oregonians,

I am writing in opposition to HB3063, the vaccine mandate bill. I am a pediatric acupuncturist and a mother. I would like to address several important issues with this bill.

First, I have fought discrimination my whole life and I am ashamed that Oregon is even entertaining such a bill as this! Have we learned nothing from Oregon's history? This bill is above all else extremely discriminatory! It discriminates against children who are not vaccinated, partially vaccinated, or on an alternative vaccination schedule. It discriminates against the parents of said children. It discriminates against alternative forms of medicine who may have alternative views/recommendations regarding vaccinations or their schedules. It also robs all patients and medical practitioners of providing and receiving informed consent without coercion!

From my understanding of the way this bill is written, if passed:

Unvaccinated children would not be allowed to go to public schools.

Unvaccinated children would not be allowed to go to private schools.

Unvaccinated children would not be allowed to homeschool via virtual classes.

Unvaccinated children would not be allowed to go to their own churches if that church has a Sunday school or children's program.

Unvaccinated children would not be allowed to attend weddings or funerals or other events held at churches, recreational centers, or any other venues that have children's programs.

Unvaccinated children would not be allowed to play most team or individual sports if they were part of an organization for children.

Unvaccinated children would not be allowed to go to the mall or other stores that have childcare options (Fred Meyers, IKEA, etc).

Unvaccinated children would not be allowed to go to extra curricular classes including gymnastics, language, swimming etc.

Unvaccinated children would not be allowed to go to otherwise public venues, like pools or libraries, if they have children's classes, summer camps, or share a roof with a building that does.

Additionally, I have been hearing unvaccinated children being called "dirty" or "disease ridden" or "disgusting" or "dangerous" by people and the media.

Now I want you to take a moment to reread the above list and replace "unvaccinated" with a race (white, black, Hispanic, Native American, etc your choice) or a sexual orientation (gay, straight, bi, etc your choice) or a religious designation (Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim etc your choice) instead. Is this starting to sound like discrimination now? Segregation is not the answer!

Next I want to talk to you about the canary effect and how having a certain amount of non vaccinated people in a vaccinated population is in fact essential to minimizing danger and disease infection in the immune compromised, elderly, and super young. Just to be clear canaries have been used in mines and other potentially dangerous to humans areas because they show symptoms first and warn of danger.

One of the complications that can happen and does happen far more than most people realize is what is called becoming a silent carrier. Silent carriers instead of becoming immune become carriers of that disease but with sub clinical (meaning they don't show up correctly with tests) symptoms. They are sick but don't know it, or know something is wrong but can't figure out what. A tragic example of this was the most recent person to die from measles in 2015. She was a vaccinated adult nurse who was a silent

carrier and was killed by the silent form of that disease. They didn't figure out it was a measles related pneumonia until her autopsy.

Silent carriers are contagious disease carriers that don't know it! An unvaccinated child is transparent either they are sick or they are healthy. They exhibit symptoms and while, yes there can be an incubation period prior to symptoms being exhibited, that is a comparatively short time of not knowing a disease is being spread compared to the spread by a silent carrier. Non vaccinated kids work like canaries in a population. They let you know something is going on by showing symptoms. This give far more warning and protection to immune compromised people than having no warning and no defined source. Saying that having unvaccinated children in a population puts that population at risk is not true. They are the canaries. Now there are some exceptions where a non vaccinated child's stronger natural immune system just doesn't pick up the silent disease so you can't always rely on them to be canaries but if they are sick you will know it.

Finally, since I'm running out of time to submit this, let's talk about medical choice. We deserve, in fact have the right, to make our own choices for our bodies and for our children's bodies. Being classified as "safe" by the industry that profits from it and has an exemption to not be sued if it turns out to cause injury or death is not the same as doing no harm. These vaccines have inserts which list possible side effects, amongst them both autism and death, (go ahead and look them up), therefore they have the potential to harm and even kill, which means they have risk. Where there is risk there must also be choice.

Those who have chosen for whatever reason not to vaccinate, not to fully vaccinate, or to follow a different schedule have done so for unshakable reasons. It is not a light choice or a whim. It isn't laziness. People do not choose to break the mold or take the harder less traveled path because they are lazy. Changing the law will not make them change their choice it will mean they pull their children out of schools and/or leave their home state or even country to protect their children. This mass exodus from the Oregon school system and other children's programs will be devastating financially to our already financially wobbly schools. And it won't actually get many more people vaccinated. The 2.6% will stay the same as it has been. There may be some reduction in exemptions simply because the people still trying to catch up on the most recent 9 vaccine additions do so, but the unvaccinated will remain just that.

I have a few final questions for you:

Are you currently up to date on all 22 vaccinations required for school children?

How about the entire 74 recommended vaccinations?

Do you intend to become so?

Do you like having a choice?

Thank you,

Melody Short-Boice L.Ac., Dipl.OM, MTCM

(Mother of a canary, wife of a settler's family, who is willing to leave the state and country full of family love to protect my child. I have worked in healthcare for 2 decades (including school clinic internships). I have seen a great deal regarding vaccinations and their injuries. I will not risk my child.)