

Dear House Health Care Committee members,

My wife and I both wish to offer our input on HB 3063.

First, her comments:

For many years, my husband and I contemplated bringing children into this world. We were married for 5 years, while we thoughtfully considered the choice to have children. It was the best choice we've ever made. We did lots of research about the birth experience of families in America and lots of research about the health of our nation's children. To us, there seemed to be a disconnect between mainstream healthcare in America and actual healthy children and families. It's alarming that there are growing obesity rates, growing autism rates, growing cancer rates. It's clear that blind trust in our healthcare system increasingly puts us at risk of these things. This is why it is important to us, that we take individual responsibility for our own health and well-being, through our education and our actions.

Before becoming an LMP I graduated from an EMT program in the hopes of learning more about healthcare. What I discovered was that the science of healthcare has become more like a religion than an actual scientific truth-seeking system. With regard to children and vaccines, what I found was inconclusive at best, and damning at worst. We could not find a single study that compared the health outcomes of vaccinated vs non-vaccinated children. This concerned us because many of the children we personally knew seemed to have a myriad of health issues, and the children whose parents abstained from vaccinations seemed to have healthy and vibrant children. When our son was 2, there was a scare campaign to get children vaccinated against pertussis. The neighborhood children rushed to get their inoculations, and then all (8) came down with pertussis. Our son didn't get an inoculation, and didn't get pertussis. We watched as my parent's neighbors took their healthy 2 year old daughter to get her well visit vaccines, and turn from a healthy child with no signs of autism into an autistic child literally overnight. We watched as our friend's son went to get his flu vaccination, and was hospitalized with "polio-like" symptoms. These anecdotes are not proof that vaccines cause damage, but they should, at a bare minimum, give anybody reasonable doubt to the claim that they are safe. Until we see some sort of wide reaching double blind transparent study that tracks the health outcomes of vaccinated vs non-vaccinated children specifically, our anecdotal evidence is all we have to go on.

We have had 3 children in 9 years, they have never had a vaccine, and they have never been sick with anything more than a cold, which they recover from quickly. We feed our children organic foods, abstain from GMOs, pesticides, and known toxins, and supplement with minerals meant to boost our bodies' natural immune system. We endeavor to gather any and all information to make the most informed decisions possible. At this point we do not to subscribe to the recommended vaccination schedule, and the risks that we have observed. Please don't make our children suffer by not allowing them to go to school under HB 3063. Their teachers love them. Their principal loves them. Their classmates love them. Please don't take their fundamental right to an education, or the right to choose what medical procedures we accept for our children and ourselves. Please do not let us slide into medical tyranny.

Thank you,  
Michelle

And I'll follow up with my own words:

I implore you to vote NO on HB 3063.

I'm an engineer. I am hardly anti-science, and not anti-vaccine. I am happy for the human achievements that science brings us. Another great human achievement was the enlightenment that went into the founding principles of this great country, where it was acknowledged that humans have a natural right to life, and liberty, and proper function of the government was to secure those right for all people.

This bill presumes that public safety can only be achieved by removing the rights of individuals. It demands that individuals submit their bodies, and abandon their personal beliefs for the promise of the common good. Even if you are to grant the premise that the common good will be advanced, (which is highly dubious given the fact that vaccinations are not free from contraindications) the removal of our fundamental right to liberty is not the way to go about it. If we do not endeavor to secure our right to liberty, we are subject to any whim of the consensus.

Oregon needs to be a leader in both securing our enlightened principles, and advancing health for all people. We must refrain from using the government as a hammer. If vaccinations are indeed the key to public health, then their efficacy should speak for itself, and voluntary compliance will be forthcoming and enthusiastic. When people are rightfully skeptical, and the response is to beat them over the head with the force of law, rather than earn their voluntary trust with compelling information and truth, then we have lost our way as an enlightened society. We cannot let this regression happen.

Thank you,  
Eric