

Good afternoon, my name is Andrew Kimmelshue from Portland, Oregon.

Chair Salinas and members of the Health Care Committee:

Today I ask you to oppose House Bill 3063. The removal of philosophical and religious exemptions from our state's vaccine program would stand in violation of Oregon's Constitution, the US Constitution's 14th Amendment, the UN's Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, the Nuremberg Code, and the principle of Informed Consent. Removing these exemptions would therefore be unlawful, unethical, and unjust to all Oregonians.

Coercion, especially of a parent, is never the way to get good work done, and that's what this bill will do. As a 2014 article in the Oregon Law Review states: "Prior, free, and informed consent is the hallmark of modern ethical medicine. The "choice" between fulfilling a child's vaccination mandates or foregoing her education is scarcely a voluntary choice; it is a coerced choice at best." Currently, Oregon has realistic and respectful policies that achieve the desired herd effect and maintain an extremely high vaccination rate, all based on parents' informed choices. Please, let these policies remain.

I have dear friends and family who all hold very different opinions about vaccination, and I don't attend this meeting to be pro- or anti-. I'm pro-human choice and I uphold the value and importance of scientific inquiry.

But Informed consent, the rights of parents, and the sovereignty of the body must be continued to be honored and upheld in the State of Oregon. We must continue to allow freedom of personal medical choice to be accessible for all our citizens. Please, trust Oregon parents to continue to make the right decisions for our children and OPPOSE House Bill 3063.