

Dear Oregon Representatives,

As a native Oregonian who has never lived outside of our beautiful State, I am writing you about HB3063.

I am writing to urge you to leave the citizens of Oregon freedom of choice about vaccinations of their children. Freedom is a value we hold dear as Oregonians and as Americans. Freedom of choice should be extended and preserved in this area as in other areas because only parents should decide when and which vaccines to administer to their children.

Most parents follow all the guidelines but those who don't have solid reasons not to or to wait until the baby is a little older and stronger to better handle them without unwanted side effects.

As safe as vaccines seem to be for the masses, there are times when they have unintended and unwanted consequences such as happened in my own family.

Little Alex was a beautiful 6 month old baby boy who was right on track developmentally. He was sitting up, cooing, playing with toys, loved tummy time, holding his head up, attempting to crawl and smiled incessantly. His mother took him in for his 6 month DPT shot and within 24 hours, baby Alex was in a complete vegetative state. His eyes no longer focused but wandered independent of each other, he could no longer even swallow properly. He laid unmoving with his mouth hanging crookedly open, drooling constantly. He never again smiled, reached for a toy or held his own head up. He never cooed or looked at his mommy or daddy again. He lived like that for 6 years when he finally died of his injuries which were proven to be the result of a bad Pertussis vaccine.

Because that injury happened in our family, doctors recommended withholding the Pertussis vaccine from my grandchildren. My grandson did get whopping cough but it was a walk in the park compared to what we had experienced with baby Alex. He was quickly over it, passed it to no one and has lifetime immunity.

You may think this is an isolated case but Alex certainly isn't alone.

We often hear similar and differing injuries of children given many different types of vaccines. There is a lot of discourse on if and when certain vaccines need or should be administered. Why does a youngster need a HPV shot many, many years before they would ever be sexually active? Same with sexually transmitted Hepatitis. Currently the MMR vaccination has come under scrutiny.

There is too much that is unknown and unproven to mandate that every child, no matter what, must legally be administered drugs that could harm, maim or kill them at a set time and date, by law. The parents with their doctor should be the ones making those decisions, not the State government.

Please leave the freedom of choice where it belongs, with the parents. It's the parents who love, care for and truly want the very best for their children. It's also the parents who provide shelter, food, clothing and every other thing their child requires to survive and thrive.

Who picks up the pieces of a shattered life when a vaccination goes wrong? Who pays the endless medical and hospital bills? Who retrofits or builds a handicapped accessible home? Who pays for the specialized wheelchair, the care providers? If the State mandates that child must receive the shot, I hope you are also planning to pick up the tab when they occasionally go horribly wrong. Who pays for the funeral? Leave those decisions to the parents and let the parents take full responsibility.

Surely if we are to hold that abortion is a decision between a woman and her doctor, then vaccinating the child she chooses to give birth to deserve the same freedom of choice.

Respectfully Yours,
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