

Hello,

I am writing to tell you that I oppose HB 3063, the bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon schoolchildren. I believe parents should retain their rights to refuse vaccinations without being coerced, and I believe all children should have access to an education regardless of vaccination status.

Currently, Only 2.7% of Oregon schoolchildren hold a philosophical or religious exemption, meaning that we already have high community immunity to disease. Therefore, there's no reason to take away parental rights to those using non-medical exemptions.

There are many reasons parents use those exemptions. Perhaps, as in my family's case, their child has had a reaction to a vaccination that doesn't qualify for a medical exemption, and so they choose to not longer use that vaccine, even if they use others. Because we have a child who has had concerning reactions to vaccines, we have chosen to space out her shots and delay certain ones until her body and immune system are more mature and able to better handle them. Many families use selective and/or delayed schedules to vaccinate their children, which works wonderfully to ensure protection from disease through vaccination, but at a pace that works better for that individual. "One size fits all" is not a good medical practice. Or they may be a member of a religion (such as Jehovah's Witnesses), which is morally opposed to the use of vaccination.

There is a lot of gray area that the exemptions allow while still keeping every child healthy and vaccination rates high.

I hope you will not oppose this bill along with me.

Thank you for reading,

Kimberly Lyons