

My name is Michele Ray. I am the parent of two vaccine-injured children, one of whom has a Level 1 ASD diagnosis, and I am also FOR safe vaccinations. As such, I feel that I straddle this issue.

Vaccination, while safe for MOST, is not safe for all. Even the CDC will not claim that vaccines are 100% safe.

If you are going to remove the non-medical exemption option, then the doctors must be allowed to determine who DOES qualify for medical exemptions. Have the medical exemption requirements been relaxed, so that the children who have already been documented by their doctors as at risk for adverse reactions can be protected? Are their doctors able to protect them from further harm? Are they able to PREVENT avoidable harm?

Medical exemptions MUST include circumstances like mine - where our doctors have determined that there was an adverse response to vaccination, but we do not meet the current criteria to obtain a medical exemption... which means that even though our doctors agree that our children need medical exemptions, they are not able to obtain them for us, and we have had to rely on a philosophical exemption.

There is currently no way to know in advance, whether your child will experience an adverse response, as we learned. We chose, when they were older, to get them additional vaccinations, when their doctors deemed it less likely to adversely affect them.

There have been some studies into the adverse response situation - the results? That more studies are vital, because vaccine injury is a real thing, and there is no real reason we can't determine in advance whether a child is likely to suffer harm. The Wakefield situation did even more harm than most people think, because the backlash against his fraudulent claims created a knee-jerk reaction that all vaccines are definitely safe, and this is not actually true, and is a dangerous way to think about it.

My children have each had ONE dose of the MMR, which was entirely sufficient because we HAD THEIR TITERS CHECKED, and they were fully vaccinated after their FIRST dose. The second one is only ever NEEDED if the first didn't take, and is routinely given in lieu of actually testing for titers.

MY CHILDREN are counted as "non vaccinated" because they do not have both doses.

A child who has had EVERY SHOT but ONE, will be counted as non-vaccinated.

Personalized vaccination plans make so much more sense than the current one-size-fits-all schedule. We don't just give the same medicine to everyone at the same dose for any other issue, do we? Some folks can't have Tylenol, some can't have ibuprofen, personalized medicine is the only thing that makes any sense at all.

We absolutely believe in safe vaccinations - I very much want to see a more personalized system, and not some blanket one-size-fits-all schedule, because WE KNOW FOR A FACT THAT PEOPLE ARE INDIVIDUALLY DIFFERENT. Their vaccination schedules should vary accordingly. We have the resources, the science, and the funds if we chose to allocate them properly.

If the goal is mass vaccine-compliance, we must be able to show the vaccine hesitant families that their concerns are heard, and that you actually do care about their kids, and support the research into a

screening option.

INFORMED CONSENT *MUST* be the standard.

There IS a MIDDLE GROUND, and we must FIND it and STAND THERE, if we want to ACTUALLY protect our children.

This Measure AS WRITTEN means that you ARE considering removing the right to Informed Consent, correct, and the right to Bodily Autonomy?

It also means that you are okay asking vaccine-hesitant families to play Russian Roulette with their children's health. And then if their children turn out to be pre-disposed to injury, the response will be "Oops, but you still don't get a medical exemption, go learn how to homeschool your newly special-needs child."

How does this Protect MY children? And if passed, how are they to continue their educations? This feels to me that their educations are being held hostage in an effort to force us to vaccinate, even though our doctors tell us it is not safe to do so.

WHAT AM I TO DO IF MY CHILDREN ARE DENIED THEIR RIGHT TO AN EDUCATION?

Please, vote NO on this hasty and poorly-written measure.

Help me as the parent of vaccine-injured children, to show the vaccine hesitant community that you DO care about their kids, and please help support the research that actually DOES need to be done to find out WHY this is happening in the first place.

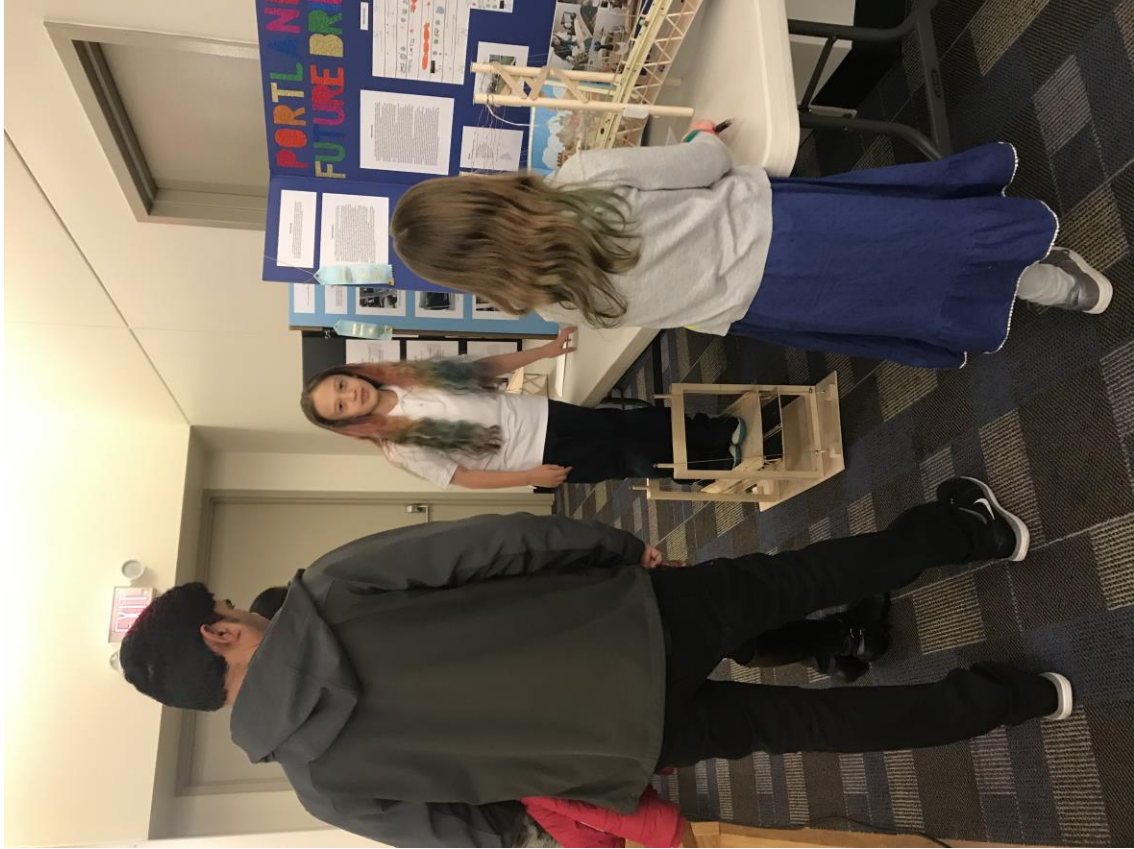
Also, please help voices like mine to be heard - the vast majority of news outlets and influential blogs willfully misrepresent ME and countless other parents of vaccine-injured kids... they insist we think MMR causes autism, but that is not at all what we are saying. Nevertheless they continue to mischaracterize us, without restraint, in ever-more vitriolic terms...

Now even some of my FRIENDS are tossing around terms like "smallpox blanket" and "pro-plague".

Please help us calm this storm and actually start looking for answers...

Vote NO on HB3063

PS, my 8yo genderfluid son just took 1st place in his class at the Science Fair for his "Portland Bridge of the Future", a combination Truss and Suspension Bridge. Here he is standing on it to give his presentation!



My 10yo daughter didn't win a prize, but her experiment, which explored the options for urban gardening, including aeroponics, conventional container gardening and straw bales, with the goal of increasing health and quality of life in urban environments - she will be presenting her project at the Intel Science Expo.



My children attend CLASS Academy in Portland, and amazing private school - our students are 90% or above the state standards for reading and math competencies. ALL of them.

If you vote YES on HB3063 on Tuesday, my kids will no longer be allowed to attend school beginning Wednesday morning.

Please, please, please... Vote NO on HB3063.

~Michele Ray