

Dear Rep. Andrea Salinas,

First of all thank you so much for the decorum with which you handled the hearing for HB 3063 on February 28, 2019

I wanted to write to you again about HB 3063. I am asking you to vote against this bill.

I am the mother of a vaccine injured child, a grandmother, and a Registered Nurse.

This bill will directly affect our family. Many families are having difficulty getting exemptions because the criteria list of exempt conditions according to the CDC is very limited. So, even if the physician has reason for concern, it will likely be turned down by OHA if it doesn't fit the guidelines. OHA has the ultimate authority for authorizing an exemption in our state. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/should-not-vacc.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINESIMMUNIZATION/GETTINGIMMUNIZED/Pages/SchExemption.aspx>

With only medical exemptions for vaccines which are very strict and our family members don't qualify (mostly severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis) our family is caught in the gray area of being forced to vaccinate with a known severe injury in the family!

Our daughter has tried to get exemptions for her children because of what happened to her brother and has been unable to get any. Her doctor told her to do the online module and fill out the paperwork. Our daughter is the single mother of two boys. She works two part time jobs that equals more than full time. She is also taking two classes at Portland Community College this term. Homeschooling is impossible for her.

I am very concerned about legislation to mandate vaccines because my grandchildren would be unable to attend school or continue to play sports.

Here is what happened to our son. Our son has a very severe known vaccine injury (encephalopathy) at age 2 from the DPT in 1986.

The night after his DPT vaccine, he had high pitched screaming, a high fever and seizures (shaking and rigidity, eyes rolling back). His health declined over the next few months along with developmental regression. After many doctor appointments, we were referred to a developmental pediatrician who didn't know at first what was wrong and said he had never seen a child regress like our son did, he was eventually diagnosed with autism (his first diagnosis) at age 4.

At age 11 we found out what he actually had was Landau-Kleffner Syndrome, an autism like syndrome. Landau-Kleffner Syndrome is an epileptic encephalopathy, with seizures in the right temporal lobe where speech, language and social skills originate. The hallmarks of this disorder are loss of language, rigidity seizures, and a specific abnormal

EEG pattern. He had many of these unusual seizures over the years but another neurologist did not believe they were seizures until he finally had a sleep EEG done.

What happened to our son wreaked havoc on our lives. He could have been a productive member of society, instead at age 35, he is in a group home with no speech, wears diapers and has ongoing behavior problems.

Doctors believe his injury is due to the pertussis portion of the DPT vaccine, but do not know for sure. This happened during the time period when there were so many lawsuits for the DPT vaccine that the government instituted the Vaccine Injury Act. Distressingly, our pediatrician “did not record the lot number of this vaccine” when it was administered. Our son’s brain inflammation and loss of language matched what was being seen with the DPT injuries. Two doctors agreed it was the vaccine in reviewing our son’s history but did not know which component caused the injury. Those doctors told us to never vaccinate him again!

The doctors do not know if it was the pertussis component or another component of the vaccine – the Diphtheria portion, adjuvants, the medium on which the components of this vaccine were grown, contaminants, etc. Do we have a genetic problem in our family that has yet to be identified? Since we have no answers to these questions we do not know if any vaccine is safe for any of our family including our grandchildren and none of us want to take this risk.

There is quite a lot of information on Medscape /National Library of Medicine about serious adverse effects from vaccines. Often the studies or articles conclude that more study needs to be done. It seems many doctors are only hearing the CDC information that vaccines are “safe and effective”, and either don’t have time or are unwilling to look at these studies/articles. As a Nurse, I know that all medications have risks!

There is no measles emergency in Oregon. There have only been 6 cases of measles reported in Oregon. Four are related to the Vancouver outbreak, which has so far been isolated to the Ukrainian church fellowship. There have been no cases in children under one or immune compromised individuals and with only one hospitalization and no deaths this outbreak, so there is no danger Oregonians.

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/measles.aspx>

Oregonians have always valued our freedom and independence. There is no reason to strip our citizens here in Oregon of their bodily autonomy! We have a right to decide what invasive procedures, including injections, are needed for ourselves and our children.

Once again, I am asking you to vote NO on HB 3063.

Ruth A Martens

