

I am writing to share my concerns about HB 3063. As a retired teacher, I believe vaccines have an important place in our society. I also feel that this bill is an overreach of government.

Restricting children from ANY type of school, especially online school, because they are missing ONE vaccination is far too restrictive. In addition, as you know, these children would be automatically expelled from school - regardless if they are in pre-school, kindergarten, or a senior in high school with only weeks before graduation.

The medical exemptions to not vaccinate are nearly impossible to obtain, so families who have had children with severe vaccine reactions and/or the genetic predisposition to possible severe reactions, would struggle to qualify under the overly strict guidelines.

Most importantly, this bill infringes on Oregonians' right to medical freedom and choice. (One of the reasons I am proud to live in our state/country is that we are a democracy and are afforded rights/choices). As it currently is written, this bill would be a step in slowly chipping away at our freedom of medical choice.

In fact, in a recent letter to the Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor and Pensions (dated February 26, 2019), the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons recognizes and addresses their concerns about governmental "interference in medical decisions, including mandated vaccines:" Specifically, they stated:

"After being fully informed of the risks and benefits of a medical procedure, patients have the right to reject or accept that procedure...Governmental preemption of patients' or parents' decisions about accepting drugs or other medical interventions is a serious intrusion into individual liberty, autonomy, and parental decisions about child-rearing."

In my opinion HB3063 - if passed as it is currently written - would be a "serious intrusion" in the rights of all Oregonians to medical freedom and choice. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3063 and protect the freedom of your fellow Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Lynne Marks
Salem OR