

Hello,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB-3063.

My son, Alexander, had a really rough start in life.



The above photo was taken just moments before he was put on full life support. Below is over a week later, when he could breath on his own again.



I would hope that you are aware that newborn babies are given HepB vaccines only hours after they are born. I had an undiagnosed medical issue during my pregnancy that effected us both severely, and landed us both in separate intensive care units in different cities. I have Lyme disease which completely ruined my immune system, but that's another medical tragedy that I won't get into here. The gist is that the germ responsible for Lyme disease (*borrelia spirochetes*) causes an acquired immune deficiency by

shedding their borrelial lipoproteins, which are triacylated and as such they are managed by Toll-Like Receptors 2/1. That means that they wreck your immune system and very quickly, and once the damage is done it's done. Taking antibiotics doesn't reverse the immune tolerance and it also doesn't prevent your child from acquiring the disease congenitally. It leaves you vulnerable to infections of all kinds for the duration of your life. The aftermath is called post sepsis syndrome. We got a double whammy, as we were both also unlucky enough to get regular hospital acquired sepsis on top of it.

My son is now 7 years old and in first grade. He goes to a small private school in the rural area that we live in. After going to developmental assessments with pediatric neurologists for years to screen him for brain damage I thank God every day that he is well enough to go to school. He misses a lot of days because of the lasting effects from his traumatic birth into this world, and the lasting effects that the vaccines he did receive had on him. In fact, Saturday night he had the biggest seizure to date. Those started after the vaccines he received at 6 months old and I have lived to regret that day ever since. The seizures are a direct cause of the vaccines he received. There are no words to describe the guilt that I carry, but his doctors said that those vaccines were in his best interest and I believed them. We all believe our doctors, because they are doctors. Yet, doctors had failed him for the second time. I wouldn't call a nurse walking into the room with syringes all ready to go before I even talked to the doctor informed consent.

This is my son now, we just celebrated his birthday in February.



His pediatrician cautioned against any more vaccines for him. With his immune deficiency it's unlikely that he would even mount enough of a response to produce antibodies. I remember enrolling him in school, I was worried about how we would pay the tuition because we really can't afford it. But we make it work because the smaller school is safer for him medically. I remember filling out his exemption and being instructed to use the philosophical exemption because he likely would only qualify for a medical one for the live virus vaccines. By then I had done my due diligence to learn everything about his condition that I possibly could and weighed the risks and benefits and definitely agreed with his pediatrician, my son is the kid who should not be vaccinated. At all. Ever.

It's not in his best interest scientifically, but OHA likely would not see it that way as their contraindication list is severely narrow. From what I can tell someone has to basically already be dead to qualify. **It's an impossible standard, and the population of people this bill is intended to protect literally does not exist. My son is that kid, and if you pass this bill he will be excluded, not protected.**

His contraindication is listed in every vaccine insert but not on the OHA list.

Alexander wasn't able to be around other kids very much when he was little. Because he was so sick we were very isolated. Social connections and friendships are important for kids. When a child is that medically fragile you keep them home, you would never send them to school. There are other germs that us Mom's with sick kids are much more worried about than the vaccine preventable ones. That's just how it is, and it's my responsibility to keep him safe- not society at large. It's irresponsible to put the burden on society and only worry about vaccine preventable diseases, there are many germs in the world and we have to worry about every single one of them.

Try to imagine how elated we were when we signed him up for kindergarten after years of uncertainty. Sure, he missed quite a lot and tuition isn't cheap (or subtracted from your bill when your kid misses 2 full weeks), but the friendships he made and the fun he had is priceless. The fun he still has is priceless. I wish you could see how disappointed he is when he wakes up in the morning and I have to tell him that he can't go to school that day because he's too sick. I had to do that this morning- again. Because he had a seizure- again. As a result of me vaccinating him- again- when he *never* should have been, before we knew what medical condition he was suffering.

If a day ever comes and I have to tell him that he can never go back to school, try to imagine the heartbreak that would cause him. Please, email me back if you're voting yes on this bill and give me some advice on what I should tell him the reason is. Because right now my mind is blank and my heart is in my throat knowing that this bill is being fast tracked. All I know is that I can't vaccinate him any further and risk his life, and this bill is forcing me to choose between his health or his education. I'll choose his health every single time.

Think about the families out there who can't quit their careers to stay home and educate their kids. What are they supposed to do? Will the state of Oregon afford them a tutor to homeschool their kids so that they don't have to risk their lives and still afford to feed them?

Please, think about the children like Alexander that will be effected by this bill and vote no. He isn't the only one. We all have unique situations and reasons for not doing the full schedule or skipping some of the *recommended* vaccines. Don't hesitate to contact me, I would love to discuss this further.

Thank you for your time,

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