

Dear Members of the House Healthcare Committee,

I am following the work session notes and amendments on HB3063. **I want to share some concerns with you.**

If this bill passes, the amendments that we need are 1. **A grandfather clause** that would allow kids to finish school once they are enrolled. It would be important to grandfather kids in who are receiving special ed services or IEPs; **Check points** would be necessary to give parents time to make other arrangements for their children. 2. **A catch up schedule.** There has been no talk of a catch up schedule. When Senator Steiner tried to pass a similar bill there was a clause to allow kids to stay in school while catching up. **The right of Oregon kids to receive a quality education and to stay in school should be prioritized.** I have mentioned to everyone on the health care committee how long it would take to safely catch up. Even one year until next Exclusion day would not be sufficient for someone who has not received any vaccines. Oregon's catch up schedule is even more strict than the CDC's which requires fewer doses. Students should also be able to show immunity through blood test in lieu of vaccination. 3. **Limit the number of vaccines required.** If there is pressure from a public health stand point, why not focus on infectious diseases? Tetanus is not an infectious disease. Vaccines for sexually transmitted diseases should not be required for school attendance either. 4. There is no emergency in Oregon. **The emergency clause should be removed** and the effective date should be Fall 2020 (or never) and 5. **Religious Exemptions should be preserved**, as removing this exemption violates our 1st Amendment rights and is therefore unconstitutional.

This bill discriminates and segregates. If it passes as it is, my kids would be kicked out of school (potentially by exclusion day 2020 without finishing the year). My son only has 4 years left and he is excited about starting high school. My daughter has one year of elementary left. **I am completely opposed to this bill which segregates children and punishes parents for making informed medical decisions on behalf of their kids**; but if it passes it would be nice for my kids to be able to finish this phase of their education and time to make alternative arrangements. In addition, kicking kids out of school and forcing us to home school, would also out-cast my kids in the community. **You might as well make them wear a red letter V** so everyone knows why they can't go to school with their friends. The misinformation surrounding this decision could increase their risk for bullying. This is certainly a mental health issue as well. How will they feel to be banned from school and to watch their friends move on? And to be denied the opportunity to graduate high school like their older brother? (Since our vaccination rates in Oregon are already high and have remained stable over the last 20 years, there is really no justification for this.) <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/imz-managers/coverage/childvaxview/data/reports/mmr/trend/index.html>

Regarding amendments to the bill: Telling us we can still say no to vaccines for Religious or Philosophical reasons but if we do we cannot send our kids to public school **still violates my rights to make personal medical decisions without coercion. This bill still discriminates against children on the basis of medical diagnosis (for those who cannot obtain an exemption) and on the basis of their parents' Religious or philosophical beliefs. This bill denies my children's rights to a free public education.**

Providing vouchers for parents who home school, may make it financially easier for some people to stay home to educate their children but it **will be expensive for Oregon** and it still does not address the issue of segregation mentioned above. It also does not protect my privacy or my children's privacy. Why, if I am homeschooling, do I need to get approval from a medical doctor and disclose to the school why I am not enrolling my child?

My kids and I like to watch the TV show about the super hero, The Flash. In one episode the Flash decides to inject someone with a cure that may make him safer to the community, but he does it

without first obtaining consent. His friends, the scientists that created this cure, were outraged. A quote from the show "**A Hero does not force others to do what he thinks is right.**" A Hero stands up for what is right and protects our freedoms.

Senator Dennis Linthicum is a hero. He has done his research and he is standing up to protect our rights. For more information, please read his current newsletter titled "First Do No Harm" Before taking away our rights, you must consider the impacts of your actions.(not just on the under vaccinated but also on the education system). Please listen to the hundreds of Oregonians who have shared their stories and information. Please stand up for the 31,000+ children in Oregon who risk discrimination and segregation if this bill passes.

Thank you for your time,

Angela Gunther