

Testimony in regards to HB 3036 amendments

Chair Salinas and Health Care Committee

These amendments (-1/-2) have some good recommendations but do not go far enough in protecting our children's right to an education.

Giving parents vouchers for private/parochial and home schooling is one way for some of our children to receive an education but there are families who are unable to homeschool, and these private school options are still out of reach of many families even with a voucher.

I have several recommendations to include in an amendment:

1) Children should be allowed to finish the school year. (As myself and others have previously pointed out, there is no emergency in Oregon.)

2) High school seniors should be allowed to graduate. For years our state education system has been working to increase our graduation rate. If HB 3063 passes without amendments there are many students who will be denied this great milestone. (Counterproductive to improving graduation rates)

3) What about students on IEP's? I thought a free and appropriate education for these children was federally mandated in IDEA/FAPE. My grandson is on an IEP and is not vaccinated because his Uncle had a really severe vaccine injury and we still don't have any answer as to whether it might be genetic.

4) We need protection for religious beliefs. Many of us have been appalled to find out that there are fetal cell debris from the aborted the babies upon whose cells vaccines are grown. We have a very diverse religious population here in Oregon. In several places a large portion of the children in a community will be exiting the public school system.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Ruth A Martens