

Hello,

I am writing to tell you that I strongly oppose HB 3063, the bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon school children. I believe parents should retain their rights to refuse vaccinations without being coerced, and I believe all children should have access to an education regardless of vaccination status.

Only 2.7% of Oregon school children currently hold a philosophical or religious exemption, meaning that scientifically we already have high community immunity to disease, which means there is no threat. Therefore, there's no reason to take away parental rights to those using non-medical exemptions.

There are many reasons parents use those exemptions. Perhaps their child has had a reaction to a vaccination that doesn't qualify for a medical exemption, and so they choose to not longer use that vaccine, even if they use others. Perhaps they are using a spaced out or reduced schedule. They may be a member of a religion (such a Jehovah's Witness), which is morally opposed to the use of vaccination.

There is a lot of gray area that the exemptions allow while still keeping every child healthy and vaccination rates high.

I hope you will not support this bill.

Thank you for reading,
Anna Kondratyuk