

Dear Representative:

I am a real estate agent and small business owner in southern Oregon. I am a member of the Chamber of Commerce and at any given time I have 5-10 people in my employ. I'm writing to urge you to oppose HB3063.

I have three sons. We make our medical decisions in a careful evidence-based way with the help of our doctor in the privacy of our doctor's office. We traveled to Mexico a few years ago and we spoke at length with the doctor then to figure out which vaccines we wanted for our boys. While I am a vaccine person, I believe we should educate parents not mandate vaccines. There is a distrust of authority by many Oregonians. I am worried that if we try to force vaccination instead of trust parents to make the best decisions, we will create even more of a social, cultural, and political divide.

Oregon is a state of inclusion. This bill seeks to exclude children from school and daycare based on their parents' decisions. How can that be the right approach?

Measles has never been spread in any public school in Oregon by unvaccinated children (or anyone else). When there have been small outbreaks of pertussis (a vaccine that, according to this peer-reviewed science, does not work well anymore. This was JUST PUBLISHED in the Journal of Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30793754>) or chickenpox (a vaccine many smart parents choose to opt out of because it has been associated with childhood shingles infections) in Ashland, the unvaccinated children stay home from school. This system works.

I am a deeply religious person with a strong belief in God. I do not believe we should deny people religious freedom. No one has to wear THEIR seatbelt to keep my child safe in the car. My child wears his seatbelt. Those who are unvaccinated are only hurting themselves. Let's educate them, not spread shame or blame.

Please do not support HB3063.

All the best,
Anna A. Houppermans

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