

Dear Representative Salinas and the members of the House Health Care Committee,

I am writing you today to share the impact HB 3063 will have on our family.

Who we are-

Dad - Rob is an Oregon special education teacher of 22 years

Mom- Jamie has a background in healthcare, owned and operated a childcare and preschool, and now is the full time caretaker of our own medically complex toddler

Our seven children range in age from 2-18 years old.

Our oldest five had all the required vaccines.

These five all go to public schools, our oldest in college.

Our youngest two were preemies.

Our 5 year old, a former preemie with sensory behaviors, has been on a delayed and selective vaccine schedule.

Our 2 year old was a micropreemie and is medical complex and she has only been able to receive one vaccine so far.

Why the change from fully vaccinated to minimal/selective vaccination? We certainly are not “ANTI-VAXXER’s” as many would call us.

Because in 2011, I was vaccine injured from a routine TDap booster. Since that day eight years ago, I have had 5 MRIs, 2 CTs, numerous lab tests, multiple specialists, and limited diagnosis. I have been diagnosed with autoimmune conditions as a result of the vaccine injury. My neurologist said “sometimes a person over responds to a vaccine...”. We have since learned that I have genetic variants that make it hard for my body to detox from heavy metals. As I’m sure you are all aware, aluminum is in adjuvant in many vaccines. We do not have a final answer that it was the aluminum that sent my immune system into overdrive, attacking my own body and destroying my life- making it nearly impossible at times for me to care for my family. But we do know that something in that vaccine was the trigger for me and my life will never be the same. 10 years ago, my mother died from ALS, her specialists speculated there was a heavy metal component. She was always fully vaccinated, even made sure to get her annual flu vaccine. Now we can’t help but wonder if she carried the same gene variant I did— and her impact was much higher than mine has been so far due likely to vastly different lifestyles.

Once you have experienced one of these life altering reactions, you begin to question things more. Are vaccines safe? Are they safe for my children? Do my children carry the genetic variants I have? What vaccine will be their trigger? We go further and access how each vaccine will benefit or pose risk for each individual child, because they are all different with different needs and functions.

Today, the right side of my face remains mildly paralyzed and it becomes more noticeable as the months go by. I have flares every few months and during those flares it takes everything I have to get up and walk down my hall in the mornings. I cannot do a simple trip to Costco without my husbands help and I must lean heavily on the cart to manage walking through the store. I had three rounds of shingles at the age of 33 & 34- each coinciding with a child in my care receiving their chicken pox vaccine. Every few months, the right side of my body experiences a pins and needles sensation as if it’s asleep- this lasts for 12-16 weeks each occurrence. I have also given birth to two premature babies since the vaccine injury

and have lost three to miscarriage. It makes sense that when my body is attacking itself, it would also attack my preborn children. This is not the life I expected to have at 41 years old!

When Elizabeth was born at only 1lb13oz, she had a brain bleed and bacterial meningitis. At a month old, she had a second round of bacterial meningitis. By medical expectation, she should not be alive today. Not only is she alive, but she is thriving. We have spent the last 33 months devoted to helping her brain heal and recover and rebuild. This means not allowing anything toxic into her body. She received only breastmilk without any formula additives for the first 12 months of her life, she was (and remains) 100% tube fed, but I pumped milk for her for eight hours a day and fed her via tube to ensure your brain and immune system the best chance. I then introduced organic, real blended food into her feeding tube. I avoided all formulas and additives because I knew how important clean, Whole Foods were for her body and brain. I couldn't place more burden on her already overburdened brain. Elizabeth has exceeded expectations and aside from being tube fed, having a weaker immune system than a typical toddler, and a mild cerebral palsy, she is a rockstar. She is bright and funny, she is incredibly smart. She will do well in life despite her rough start.

Now I ask you- given all we fought for. What if I had conceded and gave her the routine two month vaccines (when she would have still been only 34 weeks gestation weight around 3lbs) and what if her body responded like mine did. What if she didn't survive? What if her brain couldn't do all the rebuilding it has? What if instead of being a high functioning disabled child, she was a severely disabled child? Those are not risks we are willing to take. I will also add, when I declined vaccines in the NICU we had several medical professionals agree with us. The next week we watched our neighbor "tank" post vaccination. This means she began to have Brady's and desats (heart rate and oxygen drops) and needed stimulation to breath again. This reaffirmed my belief that Elizabeth's body was NOT ready for that assault.

According to the vaccine inserts, Elizabeth and her 5 year old sister, Julia are contraindicated for many vaccines- because I have autoimmune disease (from my vaccine injury) and because Elizabeth had neurological events. But, according to OHA and the CDC, neither girl will qualify for a medical exemption because the CDC only lists a several life threatening adverse reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine or in the cases of live virus vaccines, severe immune deficiency. One severe, life threatening reaction to a vaccine for Elizabeth could be crippling, or even worse, death. We know she is at risk, so why would we be forced to take that risk? Most people I talk to that know Elizabeth, ASSUME she would get a medical exemption. They say "why would she not?", "she's the reason the rest of us needs to vaccinate", "we get vaccines to protect kids like Elizabeth". The reality is medical exemptions are nearly impossible to get- even if our pediatrician decides to write one, OHA seldom grants them.

Oh, but proponents of HB 3063 will say we aren't being forced. We can simply chose to homeschool. Which for some is a valid choice. However, Elizabeth is protected under IDEA as a child with special needs and she is GUARANTEED A FREE, APPROPRIATE, PUBLIC EDUCATION. However, if we chose to not accept a full schedule of vaccines for our high risk daughter, she loses access to her education? This is for sure a lawsuit waiting to happen. Does Oregon want to deal with the lawsuit that will arise in the special education sector due to this bill? Perhaps someone would like to run the numbers on the fiscal impact of said lawsuits. I can guarantee such lawsuits will happen and I can guarantee there will be more, like the ones in regard to religious freedom and the forcing of vaccines containing objectionable ingredients such as aborted fetal cells and dna (it's right on the vaccine inserts- human diploid cells, human lung fibroblasts).

HB 3063 will be devastating for our family. If it's passed we are left with no choice other than to file lawsuit against the state of Oregon for denying our special needs child access to FAPE. Education is a right. Not only does HB3063 deny access to public education but it goes so far as to deny access to a private education, paid with by our private dollars, and even to potentially deny access to our religious buildings when they house a childcare program. If Oregon chooses to deny our family access to our religious practices including buildings, access to education, access to informed consent, then we are being denied the very essence of what we are guaranteed under our constitution in this great nation. We will not simply line up for our vaccinations. We will pull children from schools, we will quit jobs, we will gather against an unethical, overstepping, tyrannical government. The fiscal impact will be painful. Students leaving schools mean less money funds the school. Schools receive a set dollar amount of funding for each child in attendance. When attendance declines, funds decline. This will be taxing on an already struggling education system.

I am scared that one more vaccine could KILL ME... or at the least render me useless and a burden on my family and society.

I am scared that the current vaccine schedule could damage my child's at-risk brain and she could go from being the bright, funny, inquisitive, overcomer she is to severely disabled or dead.

These fears are valid. The vaccine inserts list the risks. They list the contraindications. Vaccines are not without risk and as such should NEVER BE MANDATED.

I should not sit here in my living room today, scared that the government intentionally set up with checks and balances to not overstep the wish of the people, will take away my rights to body autonomy and safety.

We are not a crazy- anti-vax family. We are REAL PEOPLE, living with REAL VACCINE INJURY, with children who have AT-RISK BRAINS. We are educated, we know how to read medical studies, and don't rely on social media to get our information (but you can bet we do discuss and share our experiences because that's how true information is told).

Oregon's vaccination exemption rate for K-12 is 2.7% statewide. That means we are well above the threshold set for "herd immunity" or "community immunity". I see people throw around the 7.5% figure. That figure is solely for kindergartners because if a parent delays ONE vaccine (like Hep B because our kids aren't at risk unless sexually active or a drug user), they are listed under "exempt". The OHA doesn't separate partially vaccinated, fully vaccinated, and unvaccinated. They simply log everyone who isn't 100% up to date according to their aggressive schedule as exempt. Did you know the CDC's schedule is less aggressive than Oregon's? According to the CDC, if we wait to give certain vaccines, then less doses are needed for that child to have coverage. But Oregon doesn't take this into consideration. So my child who received a vaccine at an age that allowed her to get 1 dose instead of 3, would still be considered "exempt" and labels as unvaccinated even though she meets the CDC guidelines for that vaccine.

I hope you all will read our story, read the information we share, and ponder it. I hope you see us as the real people we are. We are tired of being bullied, we are tired of being called names, we are tired of the Lynch mob. We want safety. We want the ability to make informed decisions. We want our government to do what it's suppose to do according to law- and that NEVER includes taking away the rights of its citizens.

Please look at these photos- in the first one you see my face- on the left is Fall of 2010 and the right is current. Notice the difference in my cheeks, mouth, eyes. That's paralysis stemming from my vaccine injury in early 2011. It feels heavy/weighted all the time. This photo was taken on a good day, when I was not experiencing a flare of my autoimmune disease and neurological issues.

The second collage is of our miracle girl, Elizabeth. I cannot adequately put into words how much I fear for her well being if she was to receive the full schedule of vaccines. Her brain has dealt with too much already. She should not be denied access to an education.

I ask that you read the vaccine inserts. Each one of them in their entirety. Read the ingredients - look up what you don't understand. Read the risks and the contraindications. Look at families like ours. And then ask yourself, can you in good conscience, morally, and ethically, allow HB 3063 to continue?



