

Chair Salinas and members of the health care committee,

I am writing to you today in opposition to HB 3063 in memory of my sister Janey who died from an allergic reaction to the MMR vaccine. I am urging you to consider the following amendments to HB 3063. I understand the desire to keep children healthy and I truly believe this bill was inspired by genuine concern for children, but only a certain segment of children in Oregon whose parents have similar experiences as the authors of this bill.

I am suggesting the following amendments:

- **Allow non-medical exemption enrollment in online public schools.** If HB 3063 is passed as written more children will be home schooled to avoid forced medical procedures. All children deserve a public-school curriculum that is on par with their peers. The argument came up during testimony that parents do have a choice and can home school their child if this bill passes. Why are we not only banning children from school, but banning them from the curriculum as well? What is the difference if they are home schooled via public online school? How does that affect the health of anyone else?
- **Children with IEPs should be allowed access to public schools for their Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).** Under this law a free appropriate public education must be made available to children with disabilities to ensure special education services. Even the most restrictive vaccine mandates follow this law. By passing HB 3063 with no amendment regarding following IDEA there will surely be a large legal battle to ensure that disabled children are not having their rights violated. Why are disabled children being unfairly targeted by this bill?
- **Checkpoints and grandfathering of current non-medical exemptions.** Some children will require a period of almost 1 year to “catch up” to the required vaccine schedule. If this bill is passed as written thousands of children who are catching up on required vaccines will be banned from school. For example, if my completely non-vaccinated child were to receive all of his vaccines (which he will not regardless of the passing of this bill) he would **not be caught up until October 15, 2019 if we started vaccinated today** for HPV, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Polio, MMR, and Chicken pox. Those would need to be administered a second time under the catch-up protocol, except for the HPV vaccine, in April. A 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of Hepatitis B vaccine would be required in July. Finally, in October he would receive a catch up and 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, and Polio vaccines. **If we started the CDC’s catch up schedule it would take 7 months to be in compliance with this bill. That is almost an entire school year.** What happens to the children who are catching up? Even California’s vaccine mandate recognizes this obvious issue and allows for certain grade “checkpoints” to ensure that everyone has adequate time to catch up while grandfathering in non-medical exemptions.
- **Continue to respect the differences that make us all unique.** I am proposing that religious exemptions continue. As a member of the Christian Science religion I believe that this bill is in direct contradiction to my faith. I am not “anti-vaccine” because I believe Jenny McCarthy or that vaccines cause autism (my unvaccinated child has autism) I am anti vaccine mandates and I

03-12-2019

am this way as a 4<sup>th</sup> generation vaccine free person. The first person ever vaccinated in my family was my sister Janey who died as a result. The Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or **prohibiting the free exercise thereof...**". There is no law, state or federal, that can make me turn my back on my faith while risking my child's life. This bill would limit my right to freely exercise my religion simply so that my child can attend a public school. This bill would limit my child's right to freely practice his religion simply for access to a public education. **This bill would make us choose between religion and education.**

This bill is a gross violation of the rights of every Oregonian. I am urging you to consider common sense alternatives that will keep this state healthy for everyone, not just those that have similar ideals.

Most respectfully,

Jennifer Allen