

Dear Oregon Legislators:

My name is Crystal Kupper. I was born in Eugene, raised in Creswell and am now a legal resident of Salem. My husband, also an Oregonian, is in the United States Air Force, and we are currently stationed in New Jersey. I am writing to urge you to vote a loud, hard NO on HB 3063, or the removal of non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregonian schoolchildren.

I am the mother of 4 vaccinated young children, including one in a wheelchair with epilepsy and hydrocephalus. This issue you are voting on tomorrow has nothing to do with vaccines and everything to do with government overreach. Oregon is one of the most pro-choice states in the nation; "My body, my choice!" is the constant rallying cry. So why should it only apply to abortion? Why should a teenaged girl be allowed to choose whether or not an abortionists' forceps, vacuum, RU-486 pills or needle enters her body -- but NOT be allowed to choose whether or not a pediatrician's needle enters her body? How is that consistent?

As I mentioned, all of my children are vaccinated. My husband and I have chosen to vaccinate, meaning that this bill is not about erasing the "anti-vaxxers" from our great state. But I greatly fear what will happen if a government that does not know nor care about my child is given carte blanche over their bodies and medical information. What's next, forced sterilization for defectives like my daughter in a wheelchair? Mandatory blood and organ donation (it could save so many lives!)? Forced breastfeeding (which could also save so many lives!) for all new moms? Banning of all alternative cancer treatments? Mandatory microchips with GPS for anyone convicted of a crime or with mental illness? *Where does it end?*

My husband has less than five years to go until military retirement. Our plan has always been to return to our beloved Oregon. But if this bill passes, we will reconsider. Again, our children are all vaccinated, but if Oregon is willing to deny our children (and eventually us) their bodily autonomy in this area, it is not a safe place to return to. My husband has fought too hard for America's freedoms to watch them being stripped away one by one!

I am begging you, on behalf of a fiercely independent and passionate-about-her-home-state Oregonian, please vote NO on HB 3063.

Sincerely,

Crystal Kupper

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