

Dear House Healthcare Committee Members,

I'm writing to ask you to please oppose HB3063. If enacted this bill would infringe upon the religious freedom of Oregonians. When Oregon changed its vaccine exemption options to include only medical and non-medical, we were assured that religious reasons were included under the non-medical option. The first amendment to the constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The Supreme Court has interpreted religion to mean a sincere and meaningful belief that occupies in the life of its possessor a place parallel to the place held by God in the lives of other persons. The religion or religious concept need not include belief in the existence of God or a supreme being to be within the scope of the First Amendment.

If infringing upon the First amendment of the US constitution isn't enough to give you pause, perhaps the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights will. This declaration was signed in 2005 by 193 countries including the US, and it states "Any preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic medical intervention is only to be carried out with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned, based on adequate information....The interests and welfare of the individual should have priority over the sole interest of science or society." Free and informed consent cannot be given under duress, coercion, or compulsion. Stating that your child will not be afforded a free and appropriate education (which is guaranteed under the rehabilitation act of 1973) unless you comply with a medical procedure is not free and informed consent.

I appreciate you taking the time to read and consider all aspects and possible ramifications of HB3063.

Thank you,

Mandy Knight