

Greetings,

I am writing to express my fervent opposition to HB 3063, the proposed bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon schoolchildren. I believe parents should retain their rights to refuse vaccinations without being coerced, or pressured by 'one-size-fits-all' governmental parameters. I believe all children should have access to an education regardless of their individual vaccination status.

Scientifically speaking, only 2.7% of Oregon schoolchildren currently hold a philosophical or religious exemption. I personally believe the latest measles outbreak in the nearby metro area is being fueled by fear to further political agendas to quickly push through legislation with potentially dire short, and long-term, consequences.

There are many reasons parents may choose to exercise exemptions and each parent is making the best decision in the interest of their child. Perhaps their child has had a reaction to a vaccination that doesn't qualify for a medical exemption, but they know that further exposure could potentially harm their child, even causing death. Perhaps they are exercising a delayed/ or reduced vaccination schedule. Or, they may be a member of a religion (such a Jehovah's Witness), which is morally opposed to the use of vaccinations. Ultimately, there remains many gray areas that the exemptions allow, while still keeping every child healthy and vaccination rates high.

I hope you will not support this bill along with me.

Thank you for reading and for your consideration of my position,

Richele Dobrea
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