

Dear Representative Salinas and members of the Committee on Health Care:

Thank you for carefully and thoroughly reviewing testimony on both sides of this issue. I am testifying in opposition of HB 3063.

I come from several generations of lifelong Oregonians. I love this state and am extremely concerned about what this legislation means for families like mine.

I have three children, two of whom are partially vaccinated and have had adverse reactions to vaccines. My youngest is medically fragile and at her doctor's recommendation I have not vaccinated her. All three of my children have the MTHFR gene mutation so we have been very selective and careful about what we administer and how. This has come with many hours of research and prayer. I do not make their healthcare decisions lightly.

This bill would rob my children of the ability to earn a diploma, which puts them at a disadvantage when moving on to college. It would also deny my youngest the special needs therapies and services that she receives at school (part of which is socialization with kids her age). Not to mention the fiscal impact on our family, as I would need to leave my employment to homeschool our children.

We have already been expelled from our local (and only) pediatric practice due to our children not being 100% vaccinated. We now have very limited healthcare options in our rural area. Now you want to take away my children's right to a free and appropriate education?

Vaccination rates in Oregon are very stable. According to OHA data, MMR vaccination rates have been steady for nearly 20 years, and before that they were LOWER not higher. Through the 80s, the vaccination rate was never over 80%. Only 2.6% of students in Oregon are unvaccinated. The other 4.9% who are "exempt" could be missing only one vaccine.

Contrary to the stories in the news, there is not a measles emergency in Oregon. As of 2/27/19, just four people in Oregon have been diagnosed with the measles this year, and all Oregon counties, per the Oregon Health Authority, report MMR vaccination rates well over the 90% considered necessary for herd immunity. In addition, the effective rate for the MMR vaccine is only 95%, at the admission of the vaccine's own manufacturer, Merck.

Making a one-size-fits all approach to a medical procedure is not only dangerous, but also a violation of human rights. This bill is unnecessary and unwarranted., especially in light of the lack of outbreaks in Oregon Schools.

Please stand with parental rights and medical freedom by voting NO on HB 3063.

Thank you,

Rebecca Elliott
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