

Committee members,

I am an Oregon mother who is concerned that HB 3063 will take away our medical, religious, and philosophical freedoms. I am not anti- or pro-vaccination, but I believe that where there is risk, there must be choice. It is up to me as a parent to decide which risks I'm comfortable taking with my precious child. There are also moral and religious freedoms at stake in this bill. As a military family, it especially pains me that these basic freedoms we sacrifice for are in danger of being taken away from us. Please consider these three points as you make your decision:

1. **Known risks.** Vaccine inserts contain adverse reactions and contraindications. It should be up to me as a parent if I am more comfortable with the risk of my hours-old newborn contracting Hepatitis B (which, if I tested negative for it, my newborn could only get through having sex or using drugs) or the risk of her coming down with a high fever or worse after receiving the vaccination. This is one example, but every vaccine package inserts contains possible risks associated with receiving the vaccine. Where there is risk we must have a choice. **There is no greater stakeholder in my child's health than me, so I must be able to choose whether I am more comfortable with the risk of my child contracting a disease or the risk of her reacting to a vaccine.**
2. **Vaccine injury compensation.** The burden of vaccine injury lawsuits was high enough that the Supreme Court acknowledged that vaccine injuries and deaths are real and created a fund to handle these lawsuits so that producing vaccines would still be profitable for manufactures (The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986). In my opinion, this is a good thing because vaccines save lives. However, billions of dollars have been given out by this fund, and it is more proof that **there is risk associated with vaccines, and therefore parents should have a choice in the matter.**
3. **Morals and religious beliefs.** Vaccines contain some human- and animal-derived ingredients. Vegan or vegetarian parents should not be forced by the government to go against their beliefs and inject them into their children. People who are anti-abortion should not be forced to give their children a vaccine like Measles-Mumps-Rubella in which 3-month old baby fetuses were involved. **We cannot call ourselves free if our government does not allow us to follow our moral and religious beliefs.**

Please consider these points and protect our medical and religious freedoms.