

Hello,

As an educator with a Master's Degree in Teaching and as a parent of four children, I would like to express my deep concern about HB 3063. Parents deserve the right to choose which vaccines should be administered to their children, and when. I have multiple concerns about the bill, some of which I outline here below:

First, **parents ought to be able to determine when their baby or child will be vaccinated, and for what.** Current recommendations start with a vaccine against Hepatitis B within hours of birth. This is a vaccine for an STD that is to be given to a newborn. It would be wiser to test mom for the STD than to tax a newborn baby's immune system with a vaccine at birth, but most health centers and hospitals don't bother to test mom for this STD first; they simply give every baby the Hep B vaccine because it's easier for them this way. **But vaccines contain preservatives, metals, and genetic material that is of questionable benefit, particularly for a newborn.** It is wiser to let parents choose if their newborn needs this vaccine based on their own Hep B status rather than requiring it for all babies.

Second, vaccines are not a perfect product despite what we would like to believe. It may be months or years before contaminated vaccines are recognized and withdrawn, as the past has taught us. The Rotavirus vaccine is one such example. **From 2008 to 2010, all batches of the Rotarix vaccine contained a swine virus that was not detected for two years.** My friend's daughter was given one of these rotavirus vaccines that was contaminated with the swine virus. The pediatrician was apologetic, but nothing could be done. Supposedly the pig virus didn't cause any immediate problems, but I was immensely glad that we had opted out of that rotavirus vaccine. The rotavirus is a minor virus that causes vomiting and perhaps dehydration; I knew that our exclusively breastfed child would likely continue to nurse and remain hydrated even with this virus. **Opting out of a vaccine for such a mediocre malady is not worth denying a child's access to education!**

Third, **this bill will unfairly exclude minorities and the lowest economic classes from equal educational access.** I once stood in line for four hours at a public health clinic so that my exchange student could get two required vaccines that she needed in order to finish her school year in Oregon. Beside us in line were many minority and economically-struggling families who lacked the economic resources for regular access to health care. Their infants and preschoolers were given multiple vaccines at the clinic that day with no concern shown for how a child's body might respond to such a mix. Normal vaccination schedules do not mix random vaccines together to be assimilated by the immune system in a single sitting. But this scenario could happen quite regularly if HB 3063 were to pass. **The bill unfairly targets minority groups and those of low economic status.**

Fourth, regarding new vaccines that will be added to the vaccine schedule, **parents deserve the opportunity to wait, learn, and make an informed opinion about such new vaccines** before having to have them administered to their child. Not all vaccines are equal; sometimes it takes time to get them right even after they are released to the public on a massive scale.

Immune diseases are definitively on the rise. We have no evidence that the 50+ vaccines and boosters we are giving children are not doing harm to the immune system that goes undetected until adulthood. Only immediate vaccine reactions are noted and recorded. We really don't know all of the long-term effects of vaccines on the immune system; only the short term effects. In another century, these long-term effects may be more understood, but **until we have a longer record of effects and evidence, vaccination ought to remain under the parents' discretion.**

I am glad that vaccines exist, as I'm sure you are as well. Our world is decidedly better with fewer rampant diseases. That said, **it is completely out of line to require parents to have a list of state-required vaccines administered to their child on a state-mandated, pre-determined schedule.**

As an educator I have seen the empty seats in high school classrooms when exclusion day rolls around in late February. It usually takes several days for these excluded students to show up again in class, having finally gotten a booster for a vaccine that had slipped a parent's notice. This scenario will only worsen with HB 6036--students will miss valuable classes because of a parent's slip (or choice). **School exclusion based on vaccination is not a situation that needs to get worse.**

I am horrified that such a bill could be considered. It tramples parents' rights, children's rights, and insults our right to make intelligent decisions that are best for our child. Not all diseases are equal, therefore not all vaccines should be considered equally important to the point of denying public educational access. Please do not pass HB 3063.

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