

Thank you to the Honorable Chair, Representative Salinas, and Members of the House Health Care Committee for receiving my testimony and attached exhibits. My testimony is also attached as a PDF to this email as well.

I'm writing to voice my opposition against HB 3063. While this bill may have honorable intentions to "protect" children, it becomes clear upon review and careful consideration of the ramifications that this bill would actually hinder, harm and wreak havoc on a very large number of Oregon citizens, including your constituents that you were elected to represent. HB 3063 would create MORE problems through burdening our already exacerbated schools administratively, potentially lose or have to spend taxpayer dollars to reconfigure a growing education deficit with the potential loss of another \$400,000,000+ annually, as there are more than 31,000 children with exemptions on file, with [each student estimated to cost approximately \\$13,000](#).

This proposed bill would negatively impact dual-income and low-income working families and severely punish their children by removing access to a free and public education. Nor would it eradicate a threat to students in any meaningful or measurable level since we already have high vaccination rates, even comparatively on a national scale despite what's being reported in the news, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Right now, we are seeing in California--where a similar bill already went into effect--an outbreak is actively occurring in a fully immunized population at an exclusive private school despite 100% compliance by those impacted: all [30 students who have whooping cough are vaccinated](#).

HB 3063 would absolutely violate foundational civil liberties that our country was founded upon upholding and protecting by forcibly denying a free and public education for more 31,000 children here in Oregon. If you support this bill, you are supporting legal discrimination and segregation and coercing thousands of Oregon families to comply with a law that violates the ethical standard for medical informed consent that was derived from the Nuremberg Trials post-WWII and is upheld in similar fashion by code of ethics policies adopted by the United Nations and the World Health Organization.

The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, the very law that put into place the legal requirement to have Health and Human Services conduct further safety studies every two years, was just recently found in a court of law to have failed the American public on their duty to do so in more than 3 decades of this tasked legal obligation. If you are truly concerned about increasing vaccination rates, push the CDC and HHS to address the safety concerns that parents and practitioners alike have presented, instead of pretending that legitimate safety concerns or vaccine injuries don't exist. Demand the return of the individual measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines, which would automatically increase uptake.

Despite these concerns, Oregon does has [extremely high MMR rates](#) across all counties. Here is [Oregon Health Authority data on high vaccination rates](#) across Oregon.

Exempt in Oregon means a student didn't receive [ALL 31 of 31 required](#) vaccines for school attendance. Just 7.5% of kindergarteners file an exemption form, meaning they could simply be exempt from ONE vaccine and not ALL vaccines. Even the [CDC recommends the second dose](#) of the MMR shot to be given between the ages of 4 and 6. Kindergartners do always not turn 6 during the school year when this data is collected, so if parents choose to simply WAIT until their child is 6 or 6 and a half, they would have to file a non-medical exemption for that one dose. Interestingly enough, data collection USED to be in first grade, when a more accurate status can be and should be collected to provide a clearer picture. This bill would not even allow parents their right to wait.

[Only 2.6% of students](#) in K-12 are 100% unvaccinated, so that means of the people who filed an exemption, [66% of them partially vaccinated](#) their kids with up to 30 of the 31 doses required (2.6% of the 7.5% of exemptions did no vaccines, which means 4.9% did vaccinate, $4.9/7.5=65\%$). Again, Oregon Vaccination rates have remained steady over the last several decades.

Last year, nearly 96% of Oregon children in grades K-12 had two doses of MMR. No Oregon public school has seen a single case of measles due to the 60 cases in Washington, despite several Oregon exposure sites where children and members of the community were present. The current laws and public health measures already established and in place are working, and work well.

I would bet that each of you values and strives to create equality in Oregon and equal access to basic human rights and to protect civil liberties--the very things this country was founded on, and likely some of the sentiment as to why you chose to pursue civic duty as a legislator: to legislate fair and balanced laws and guidelines and serve your communities and state. Education is a basic right and a civil liberty that should not be denied or withheld in such a progressive state like Oregon.

Students who have active infections of Hepatitis B, HIV or Aids can legally attend school and keep their medical status private and confidential from others--they are a protected class--yet this bill implies that students who do not have active diseases who "could" possibly "someday" pose a risk, would not be afforded the same protections like their peers who DO actually already have a known disease.

In 2017, The Register Guard reported on exclusions percentages following the Exclusion Day and reported that "[Vaccine Exclusions Drop 17%.](#)"

There is NO CRISIS here in Oregon, despite what the media blitz and coverage would have you believe. The crisis we currently face in education is the state of affairs already happening in Oregon classrooms with the sizable education budget deficit, tremendous student behavioral challenges that teachers face daily, large class sizes, inadequate teaching materials, and the fact that today, 1 in 6 children suffers from a disability which may directly interfere in their ability to succeed in the classroom that again, this bill will do NOTHING to help, only hinder even further.

I would like to share a few statements about my mother, who, for the sake of this bill, was on the front lines of this issue for her entire career. She is a retired award-winning teacher of 37 years who continues in her retirement to educate children in schools and at churches despite being in her mid-70's. She suffers from several challenging diagnosed autoimmune issues, many of which previous generations in our family also suffered from, that make her life harder to navigate medically speaking. When she was a school-aged girl, she suffered from Rheumatic fever, a debilitating illness that has never had a vaccine. Even with her extensive health history, today she would NOT qualify for a medical exemption here in Oregon if she was a student.

Not once as a professional educator has she EVER stayed up late at night stressing about whether Little Johnny or Little Susie had the same number or all of their shots in order to achieve classroom safety or success. In fact, for much of her career that began in the 1960's, we were nowhere near "herd immunity" status and "outbreaks" did not occur, just normal, childhood illness occasionally where students stayed home until healthy. Her focus as a dedicated educator has always been on the success and learning outcomes of her students, and to be inclusive to all in her classroom and provide an equal learning opportunity no matter the race, creed, religion, gender, income level or medical status of

the child.

HB 3063 would instantly discriminate against a vast number of children and families--that cannot be something that you, as an elected official, would stand for, could it? It would be unfathomable to consider legalizing discrimination after such gains have been made to legalize inclusivity and diversity, especially in our progressive multicultural state which prides itself on gender, ethnicity, income-equality and religious sensitivities and freedoms. As legislators reviewing this proposed bill, do even know that some of the very recommended vaccines children receive contain priority chemicals of concern like formaldehyde, phenol and mercury, called out by the OHA?

Can you consciously mandate a medical product that went LIABILITY-FREE under the 1986 Act when those who are mandated to receive these shots cannot even seek legal repercussions from the manufacturers directly?

I implore you, as Representatives for our fine state, you, like doctors, you take an oath. The Hippocratic Oath comes to mind when reviewing this bill to, "First, do no harm." Today's children are the sickest generation this country has ever experienced. Do not mandate a medical procedure as a basis for attending school. Let doctors and health practitioners focus on family health and any hesitations individually without the added burden of an unconstitutional government mandated law that could wind up in the courts over products that have NEVER had double-blind placebo studies, nor ever been tested for mutagenic effects, let alone a study that reviewed ALL vaccines together for synergistic impact. Since the passing of that same 1986 Act, more than \$4 billion has been paid out of national taxpayer dollars, for settled vaccine injury cases in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.

After all, liberty rights are unalienable, or so they are supposed to be. Isn't that what we actually teach our children in school?

Do not alienate more than 31,000 children in this state from their right to a public education. Do not hold hostage that civil liberty--that is NOT your duty to your constituents. In fact, it's quite the opposite. Please OPPOSE HB 3063 and stand with ALL Oregonians and act on behalf of our rights to an education rather than consciously turning education into a privilege in this state.

Three times more vaccines are required than when I was a kid of the 1980's. Depending upon when you were born, it could be an even wider gap between what you received and what is given today. Would you be willing yourself to submit to the [72 doses](#) received by children today through the age of 18? How about the new 6-in-1 vaccine that was approved for use just YESTERDAY by the national Advisory Council on Immunization Practices where 36 babies died during the clinical trials? Or what about the Anthrax vaccine? It, too, was just "recommended" for CHILDREN by ACIP. If you are personally not ready to submit to today's vaccine schedule and any other vaccines in development that could be added to the "recommended" schedule, then you have no business supporting this bill or any others like it that violate fundamental civil liberties.

Vaccine mandate advocates often assert a need for a 95% immunization rate to achieve herd immunity. According to Oregon's vaccination rates, cited above. We are within those limits. However, Mary Holland and Chase Zachary of NYU School of Law argue, [in the Oregon Law Review](#), that because complete herd immunity and measles eradication are unachievable, the better goal is for herd effect and disease control. The best outcome would result, they argue, from informed consent, more open communication, and market-based

approaches.

Thank you all for your consideration in OPPOSING HB 3063, and putting Oregon tax payer dollars and your valuable efforts towards fixing actual crisis items like the education budget gap and affordable housing. Our schools, families, children and communities deserve better, and this is NOT the means to produce higher educational outcomes and performance in Oregon.

Kind Regards,
Amber

Amber Sims

Wife, Mother, Former Adjunct Professor, Business Owner, Property Owner

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