

**From:** [Ashley Monaco](#)  
**To:** [HHC Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB 3063  
**Date:** Friday, March 1, 2019 2:37:03 PM

---

Representatives Salinas, Noble and others concerned,

As a mother and nurse of a medically fragile child, I would like to offer our testimony in OPPOSITION of house bill 3063. This may be surprising to you, knowing that I am both a RN, BSN and a mother to a medically fragile child who cannot be vaccinated but I am in favor of maintaining medical freedom in the state of Oregon.

Our story started when my then very healthy son, Emmett, went in for his well child check at 9 months old (11/2016) and we discovered that he had leveled off his growth chart and had some mild low muscle tone. After discussing our options regarding vaccines with his pediatrician, Dr Paul Thomas, we both agreed that it would be wise to hold off on vaccines until we were sure that nothing was wrong.

What followed was over a year of uncertainty! He continued to gain skills but at a much slower rate and never met some of his gross motor skills like pushing into a sitting position. To make a diagnostic odyssey very short, we were referred to OHSU neurology March 1st, 2017 and we did not receive a diagnosis of Krabbe until January 25th, 2018. Krabbe is a genetic disorder that is a progressive, neurodegenerative disease with no cure yet. There is a viable treatment option available that significantly increases the quality of life but only if caught before symptoms start.

At this time, Emmett has lost all his abilities, including vision, swallowing, all motor skills and the only thing he has left is his hearing and cognition. Thankfully, he has not had any seizures even though there is a high risk associated with this disease. When we traveled to Pittsburgh in February of 2017 to see the Krabbe specialist, we were asked about his vaccine history. When we told her that we stopped all vaccines when symptoms started, she breathed a sigh of relief! She said that some of the vaccines are known to make the condition even worse than it already is.

If this bill passes, we would not have felt the freedom to make these decisions. Throughout the entire time that we were searching for a diagnosis, we NEVER gave up hope that he would go to school or participate in sports like any other little boy! At the time that we chose not to vaccinate, we didn't have a medical diagnosis to support our decision. We chose not to vaccinate for philosophical reasons!

On another note, my older son, Jaxon, is about to start Kindergarten. He is up to date on all of his vaccines except Hepatitis B. I knew when he was born that his risk of exposure was next to nothing, so we chose not to vaccinate. But he would be excluded from attending school because of this one decision? Also, because of the few cases of measles, we checked his blood titers to protect his brother and his is immune to measles after one shot! He doesn't require a second one and yet he would be considered exempt despite being immune!

Please consider that the majority of the time, a mom knows that something is wrong with her child before the doctors, tests, images, etc can prove it! As a nurse, I've seen a mother's intuition work before the healthcare providers knew anything was wrong! This bill would take away a parent's right to choose what goes into their child's body because not every family can afford to cut an income to homeschool. Another question to ask yourselves is, can the school system afford to loose over 30,000 children?

I strongly urge you to oppose this bill! If we don't have freedom in all senses of the word, then what DO we have?

Sincerely,

Ashley Monaco, RN, BSN