

I am a voter, a medical professional, and a mother. I am deeply in favor of immunizations, however I am unconvinced that this bill is the right answer. I am concerned about the children being raised by parents who distrust mainstream medicine. The case of Edgar Lopez is deeply troubling. He was the 13 year old diabetic boy in California whose parents tried to “detox” him from his insulin by rubbing lavender oil into his spine, sold to them by a witch doctor herbalist. How many parents will decide that mainstream medicine is not for them at all after this bill is passed? Perhaps they will completely stop taking their children for wellness exams or seeking healthcare when their children fall ill. And if they are also barred from school, how many of these children will have no outlet if they are in unsafe living environments? School is a safety net for so many of these children. They are residents in their community and they should be allowed the same privilege of education that is given to the rest of the residents. It saddens me that medical science is losing the battle to pseudoscience, but I do not feel it is fair to further punish the children that are impacted by their parents’ choices. I understand that children who are ill, undergoing chemotherapy or born with immunodeficiencies, deserve to be included, and they do not choose to be vulnerable – but unvaccinated children are not choosing to remain vulnerable either. Their parents are choosing for them.

There is no perfect system. How responsible is our community for the health and wellness of the children growing up here? Is it enough that healthcare is available, or do we need to mandate that parents seek out preventive care for their children? Whatever your choice when you vote, thank you for your consideration and your service to the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Vori Arnold
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