

I am a concerned Oregon parent who would like to voice my opposition to HB 3063.

This bill is grossly infringing upon parental rights. The vast majority of parents love their children and have their best interests at heart. Not only this, but they know their children best and are intimately familiar with their health history and current health status. This love combined with intimate knowledge of their children puts them in the best position to make decisions for their children. Particularly decisions that involve risk, which would include whether or not to vaccinate their children, as all vaccines have the potential for negative side effects, including death. Even if the chances are one in a million, which I disagree with and believe is vastly underestimated, if there is risk, parents must retain the right to be able to refuse a procedure, medication or vaccine. Bodily autonomy and the right to make these decisions is a basic freedom!

The authors and co-sponsors of this bill purport that parents will maintain freedom of vaccine choice for their children, however, this is not the case. Parents will be coerced to vaccinate their children in order for their children to attend school. If they do not vaccinate their children, they will be unable to attend school and obtain a public education, an education which is paid for by taxes, to which their parents certainly contribute. The authors also purport that if children have medical conditions which would make it unsafe to vaccinate, they can always get a medical exemption from their doctor. This is also not generally the case. Medical exemptions in Oregon are incredibly difficult to obtain; Oregon's medical exemption rate is .0013%, most states are 1-1.5%. Doctors can't just write medical exemptions, they must be approved by the Oregon Health Authority and there is a very short and restrictive list of medical conditions that qualify. The problem with this is that genetic science is outpacing outdated vaccine science and schedules. There is much research that shows that children with certain genetic mutations are more likely to suffer vaccine injuries. Many parents whose children have genetic mutations or adverse vaccine reactions that do not allow them to obtain a medical exemption are currently using non-medical exemptions on the advice of their doctors.

Finally, this bill would infringe on freedom of religion. Oregon used to have religious and philosophical exemptions but both were removed and changed to non-medical exemptions. There are many who have strong religious beliefs, myself included, prohibiting them from injecting human DNA, derived from aborted fetal cells and animal DNA into their bodies.

I truly feel for parents who have immunocompromised children and are fearful for their health. This bill does not protect their children. If immunocompromised children are attending school, there are certainly teacher, staff and volunteers who are not current on their vaccines. If these children are going to school, they are likely visiting other public venues where not everyone is up to date on vaccines. If immunocompromised children are attending school and other public venues, they are also going to be exposed to illnesses for which there are no vaccinations. This bill is based on fear. There is no current vaccination rate emergency. Only 2.6% of children are unvaccinated. I know the recent measles cases garnered a lot of media attention and created fear among the public, but with only four confirmed cases in Oregon, does this meet the

standards for an outbreak and an emergency? I believe it does not. Oregon school children are vaccinated above herd immunity thresholds for all mandated vaccines.

For all of these reasons, I am strongly opposed to HB 3063.

Sincerely,
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