

VanMouwerik Reid

From: Whitney Greer <wc_greer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 4:57 PM
To: HHC Exhibits
Subject: Testimony on HB3063

Dear Legislators,

I am a resident of Tualatin, OR and I am writing to you in opposition to HB3063.

Oregon's standards for who and what conditions qualify for medical exemption are some of the most stringent in the nation. The removal of philosophical and religious exemptions leaves medically fragile Oregon children, who do not meet these extreme med exempt requirements, with two very poor choices. Vaccinate and risk potential harm, or homeschool.

I am a tax paying Oregon homeowner and my children have a need, a desire and a right to an education. Truthfully, I, like many others, would be woefully unprepared to give them the education they truly deserve if this bill gets passed. As a mother of a fully vaccinated and a partially vaccinated child, I fully understand the efforts to ensure public health for through the use of vaccines. Oregon schoolchildren's immunization levels are close to 94% and have shown little change over the recent years. Only 2.6% of Oregon children K-12, are non medically exempt from ALL vaccinations. These numbers do not support the idea that changing our approach toward vaccine exemptions is a truly emergent situation, and these statistics fall well within the postulated ideals for herd immunity.

The truth of the matter is that this is not a one size fits all situation, the listed contraindications to vaccines are many. I am not anti vaccination by any means, but I am fully pro parental choice due to my own experience. My eldest child is fully vaccinated without issue but, under direction from my child's MD, I stopped vaccinating my younger child due to uncontrollable high fever and seizing following immunizations. Yet despite these reactions, he does not qualify for a medical exemption in the state of Oregon.

I believe in science, I believe that vaccines work and save lives, but I do not believe vaccines are infallible. The VAERS Court exists in this country because negative reactions can and do occur in a small percentage of our population, but we have no legal recourse against the vaccine manufacturers.

Please protect my parental right to choose and my children's right to an education.

Respectfully,

Whitney Mervine