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From: amy beacom <amybeacom@yahoo.com>
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To: HHC Exhibits
Subject: HB 3063 testimony

March 1, 2019

To the members of the House Committee on Health Care
cc: Speaker Tina Kotek, Representative Jennifer Williamson, Senator Ginny Burdick

Re: HB 3063

My son and daughter have both been diagnosed with a still controversial autoimmune disorder (autoimmune encephalitis/PANDAS) that is terrifying and life threatening for some, but not yet fully incorporated into the medical lexicon. All of their doctors have recommended that they DO NOT follow the CDC schedule of immunizations.

A recommendation that the CDC agrees with. According to the Center for Disease Control guidelines for the measles-mumps-rubella vaccine—just updated *last year*—individuals who have siblings or parents with a history of immune system problems should not get the MMR vaccine. Given the debates around autoimmune encephalitis it will be complicated to get a medical exemption, if one would be granted at all. This example is just one illustration of the complications that arise from a standardized, one-size-fits-all approach to medicine. And it is one reason that I, as a lifelong Democratic voter (HD-36, SD-18), strongly oppose HB 3063.

I am not anti-vaccine, but I am opposed to eliminating choice in personal medical decisions. Forcing a single, uniform vaccination schedule upon families is an inappropriate intrusion of the legislature into every well-child visit a parent has with his or her pediatrician from birth until age eighteen. We have two daughters, ages five and nine, and have had many conversations with our pediatrician about the timing, safety, and efficacy of vaccines. This bill not only strips parents of their rights, it takes away parents' role as partners with their doctors in the responsibility for their children's health care. By removing parental choice regarding childhood vaccines, politicians are crossing a line into health care decisions endemic to the relationship between an individual and his or her physician.

I am a lifelong progressive voter, but I never thought a Democratic supermajority would cavalierly take away my right to choose. I believe in enacting laws that protect the common good. I believe that vaccines are critical to overall public health. But I do not support HB 3063.

This historic supermajority needs to focus on the priorities: climate change, housing the houseless, expanding health care benefits and importantly - paid parental leave for all. The legislature has suffered this session from allegations of harassment and incivility, and legislating away the rights of the minority, no matter how easily mocked or minimized, is un-American.

The number of people who choose an alternative vaccine schedule or are against vaccines is very small. It is un-American to take away this minority's rights: to make informed health-care decisions for their children, to give their children an education (home school is not an option for most working parents).

Democracy requires that a minority's basic and inalienable rights must be protected, particularly in the case of supermajority rule. Otherwise we are no different than the autocrats.

Please don't schedule HB 3063 for a work session, don't force all legislators to vote on an issue that divides the base that elected a Democratic supermajority. Do not force a single one-size-fits-all-children approach on medical choices that belong with families.

Sincerely,

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead