

Hello,

My name is Patrick McGarrah and I oppose HB 3063, the bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon schoolchildren. The bill's definition of medical reason is frightening, covering only a fraction of medical reasons a parent would opt out. I believe parents should retain their rights to refuse vaccinations without being coerced, and I believe all children should have access to an education regardless of vaccination status. Only 2.7% of Oregon schoolchildren currently hold a philosophical or religious exemption, meaning that scientifically we already have high community immunity to disease. Furthermore, it has been proven that herd immunity is not possible. It would require 95% of adults to be FULLY updated on vaccinations (impossible).

There's no reason to take away parental rights to those using non-medical exemptions. There are many reasons parents use those exemptions. Perhaps their child has had a reaction to a vaccination that doesn't qualify for a medical exemption, and so they choose to not longer use that vaccine, even if they use others. Perhaps they are using a spaced out or reduced schedule. They may be a member of a religion (such a Jehovah's Witness), which is morally opposed to the use of vaccination. There is a lot of gray area that the exemptions allow while still keeping every child healthy and vaccination rates high.

I hope you will not support this bill, for our children sake.

Thank you for reading,

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