

To the Legislature:

I'm writing to voice my opposition to HB-3063.

While this bill has good intentions of protecting our kids, I fear that important information has been left out in its consideration.

First, the expression that vaccines are "safe and effective" fails to acknowledge that vaccines are the only medical product that are not held to the same safety standards as all other medical devices and products. There have not been double-blind placebo-controlled studies on vaccines, nor has the development of this product advanced enough to look at the long-term effects the current CDC recommended schedule has on the health of our children and the role genetics and immunobiology play in their safety. Today's children are the sickest generation this country has seen. Asthma, food allergies, autism, learning disabilities, developmental delays, sensory processing disorders, and autoimmune conditions are all on the rise.

I am concerned that it is no coincidence that our children's health has declined as the number of recommended vaccines has increased. We require three-fold more vaccines than when I was a child. The science must look at how all these factors interplay. I have seen firsthand that vaccines can cause injury with my own son and nephew.

We do not yet know the precise reason certain individuals are susceptible to vaccine injury, but to say vaccine injury doesn't occur is incorrect. Yet the pharmaceutical companies cannot be held liable for these injuries. Where is the justice in that?

Perhaps most importantly, we must acknowledge that government is overstepping its boundaries here and interjecting itself into the private relationship of a doctor and his/her patient. Knowing a patient's full medical, family and social history puts the doctor in the best position to determine how to care for his/her patient.

Furthermore, this bill (HB-3063) is discriminatory and deprives children of their right to an education. The parents of children who vaccinate on an alternative schedule or not at all are well educated and informed and are quite convicted in their decision. These people are not going to change their minds if this bill becomes law and take their kids to the doctor to get "up to date" on shots. Rather, these families will move out of the state and Oregon schools will lose money.

Individualizing the child's vaccination schedule to respond to their child's exposures and vulnerabilities actually makes parents feel less hesitant and less fearful about vaccines. I encourage you to focus your desire to protect kids in a different fashion: demand true vaccination safety studies, make manufacturers liable, and take big pharm lobbyists out of the government.

Thank you for your time,

Charlie Bauer