

Dear Representative,

My name is Elizabeth and I am writing from Forest Grove, Oregon. I have two school age children. I moved to this wonderful state 3 years ago. I was thrilled it allowed for medical freedom to choose what we inject into our bodies unlike the state I moved from. I hope to stay in Oregon and raise our children here.

At our children's school, my job the past 2 years have been to collect vaccine forms and submit the proper information to the health department. I see the rates for our school and others. I see the people that have exemptions and most fully vaccinate or only have exemptions for a couple. If this bill passes, these children will be denied the right to a free education.

I am writing to tell you that I oppose HB 3063, the bill to end all non-medical vaccine exemptions for Oregon schoolchildren. 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. Therefore, 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 along with me. Thank you for reading,
Elizabeth Calaro